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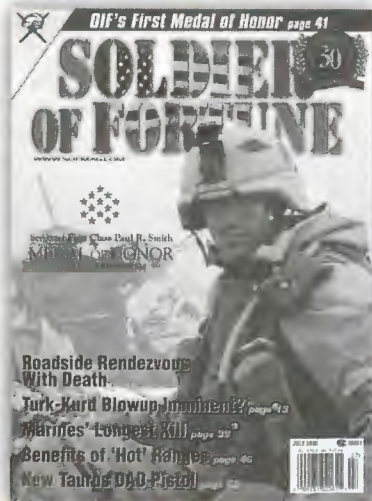
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**On The Cover**  
Marines who trained at Gunsite.

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Gary Paul Johnston

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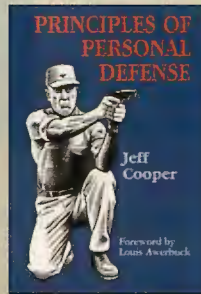
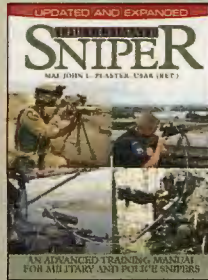
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sequences designed to show you how to maximize time, distance and movement to create openings for using your large knife to attack or defend against one or more opponents. 11 x 8 1/2, softcover, illus., 248 pp. #ABT

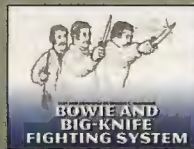
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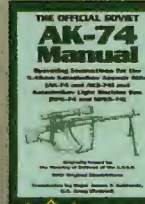
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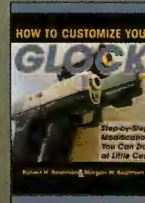
Soviet Union, this manual taught Russian soldiers every detail of the operation and maintenance of the AK-74 and RPK-74. Included are valuable ballistic tables, zeroing information, combat firing instructions and more. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, illus., 148 pp. #AK74

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# Command Guidance

BY LT. COL. ROBERT K. BROWN USAR (RET.)



## SOF's NRA BOD Endorsements

Below is the list of candidates that SOF is endorsing for the NRA Board of Directors, 2006 Election:

- |                                             |                          |                         |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Bach, Scott L.                           | 9. Hornady, Steve        | 18. Ross, Wayne Anthony |
| 2. Bachenberg, William A.                   | 10. Jones, David         | 19. Saba, Don           |
| 3. Boehm, David O.                          | 11. Julien, D. Cynthia   | 20. Sanders, Robert E.  |
| 4. Brown, Robert K.                         | 12. King, Thomas H.      | 21. Schmeits, Ronald L. |
| 5. Caplan, David I.                         | 13. Landford, Herbert A. | 22. Sigler, John C.     |
| 6. DiBiasio, Donn C.                        | 14. Meadows, Carolyn D.  | 23. Smithbaker, John    |
| 7. Fernandez, Manuel                        | 15. Miller, Bill         | 24. Williams, J.D.      |
| 8. Heath, Amy (Jeff Cooper's granddaughter) | 16. Nugent, Johnny       | 25. Wos, Robert J.      |
|                                             | 17. Reynolds, Edie P.    |                         |

## Kudos to the Civilian Marksmanship Program!

The Civilian Marksmanship Program deserves a gold star – no, half-a-dozen gold stars, for initiating a program to recruit hi-power shooters to serve as instructors in the U.S. Army Designated Marksman-ship Instructor Courses. The Squad Designated Marksman (SDM) is trained in advanced marksmanship techniques that facilitate him engaging man-sized targets from 200 to 500 meters. This type of accuracy, the Army has finally figured out, is what is needed to engage elusive targets in the WOT where Islamic Vermin Scum are often intermixed with civilian noncombatants. Each infantry squad is supposed to have one troop who is a trained SDM. The Army had to turn to the civilian sector for assistance, as they simply do not have enough qualified marksmanship instructors to accomplish this mission.

Because Mother Army, had discounted the significance of individual marksmanship over the past few decades, all the Advanced Marksmanship Units (AMU) at major bases, such as at XVIII Corps, located at Ft. Bragg, which I commanded before flying off to Vietnam in 1968, were

disbanded. This resulted in only the AMU at Ft. Benning having the knowledge and experience base to teach advanced marksmanship. But they did not have enough instructors, so, the Army turned to the CMP to identify and recruit qualified civilian shooters to fill in the gap. CMP volunteers serve on a volunteer basis, but their travel expenses are reimbursed while they are on assignment. For further information check, out the CMP web site at [www.odcmp.com/Programs/MRIApp.pdf](http://www.odcmp.com/Programs/MRIApp.pdf) Or "google" "Civilian Marksmanship Program," punch up the Dec. 05 newsletter and then click on "Army SDM Instructor Program Grows With CMP Support." It is certainly gratifying that some elements of the organized shooting community have shown the initiative to provide the Army with a much need service. Good on the CMP; good on the Army for having the flexibility to utilize volunteer help and good on the cadre of 40 volunteers who have volunteered their time! We, in the shooting community, owe a "Atta-boy" to all involved in this program.

## SOF Needs Help In Locating The Following Lost Souls:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Frank Johns, retired Air force officer who served in OSI, former chief, Special Projects Division, Directorate of Counterintelligence, Air Force Office of Special Investigations | 3. Chris Rozek |
| 2. Ed Dearborne, legendary Air America pilot                                                                                                                                         | 4. Skip Cheal  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                      | 5. Jake Jatras |

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## Corporal Jeff Starr, USMC

President George W. Bush talked about this Marine in his speech at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland on 29 November 2005. Marine Corporal Jeff Starr was killed fighting the terrorists in Ramadi earlier this year. After he died, a fellow Marine found a letter on his laptop computer. Here's what he wrote:

[I]f you're reading this, then I've died in Iraq. I don't regret going. Everybody dies, but few get to do it for something as important as freedom. It may seem confusing why we are in Iraq, it's not to me. I'm here helping these people, so they can live the way we live. Not [to] have to worry about tyrants or vicious dictators. Others have died for my freedom, now this is my mark'.

Corporal Starr, like thousands before him ... has made his mark. It, like his patriotism, will not be wiped away by cheap tears and the whining of those who want to "cut-and-run" in Iraq.

... Where Do We Find Such Men?

*Semper Fidelis*

Major Bruce "Doc" Norton,  
U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)

*Where do we find such men? That's easy: In American uniforms!*

## Support our Troops in Afghanistan

My son is currently serving with Task Force Fury in Afghanistan. I run a support program that sends weekly care packages, and sent over 800 Christmas Shoeboxes filled with presents to them. My program was written up in the *Washington Post*, put on the AP wire service and has appeared in newspapers throughout the country, even made *Stars & Stripes*.

The unique part of our program is that the soldiers e-mail us with their needs and wants. They have been asking for copies of your magazine, which I have been unable to find locally. Is

there any way you could send them some copies, even back issues? I can furnish names and addresses of soldiers who would be willing to share them with other soldiers.

The guys in Afghanistan get left out due to the media focus on Iraq, and ask for so little. Would you please help me help them? They have been in combat longer, survive in worse weather conditions and generally get the short end of the stick in supplies and equipment. Yet they serve us all bravely.

Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Pat Jacobs

(Mom to over 800 sons)

[patatlikearock@msn.com](mailto:patatlikearock@msn.com)

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*This short note doesn't tell half the story about this Great Gal and the work she is doing. We were glad to ship out several cases of SOF to the addresses she supplied, of course, but that was a drop in the bucket compared to what she's accomplished on her own, working five-day weeks, then cleaning houses weekends to pay the postage on items donated for the troops, mostly by the good folks in and around Culpeper.*

*She has info packs for donors she can send to folks who want to send care packages themselves, with checklists of items requested by the soldiers (she is unique in that she takes requests directly from the boots on the ground), with needed items, names/addresses of soldiers, usually the First Shirt, and info about customs regulations, postal forms and so on (send her a large SSAE for this).*

*Around Christmas time she had sent out nearly a thousand individual shoeboxes and bags of goodies in large shipping cartons, and at this writing is still sending out 3-4 large boxes a week -- and will as long as the troops are there (and the boxes all got there in time for Christmas).*

*Pat also works as a clearinghouse for donors, directing them to organizations already up and running, as well helping folks start their own group to send care packages to our guys. She has contact*

*with organizations that are non-profit, so donors can take the tax deduction if they want. She still works directly with the soldiers of Task Force Fury and Task Force Bayonet in regard to care packages.*

*More info? Send a large SSAE to the above address. Specific question? E-mail Pat at the above e-mail address. Items or cash to donate? E-mail and she can give you points of contact for non-profits who can receive the funds, or shipping info on items you want to donate, or specific needs with names/addresses you can send to directly; she can also e-mail the info packet.*

*Frequently asked-for comfort items? All the usual suspects: socks, disposable razors, paperback books, sweet and salty snacks, foot powder, sunscreen, lip balm, pipe cleaners, AA batteries for NVGs, trail mix, packets of cocoa and Kool-aid, toothpaste/brushes, chewing gum, hard candy, beef jerky, potato chips in a can, soap, waterless towelettes, scarves/stocking hats/gloves (subdued colors)... You remember -- all the stuff you needed in the field yourself.*

*One Gold-Hearted Pat Jacobs is worth ten "professional non-profit agencies" rattling the tin can at the end of the pay line. Help her work where you can.*

## Items List For Our Troops


On Veteran's day we are holding an event to help out our troops here and overseas.

We will be collecting comfort items that will be sent over seas as well as cash to bring home for stateside holidays for our troops.

Will you be so kind as to send me a list of needed items. I've seen several in the pages of my SOF but didn't keep them on hand (I sent the mags with a NG Capt. When he left last month).

Hope to hear from you real soon as I have an email list that is waiting for this info.

With gratitude,  
Scott Martin - 00011555SF  
VRWC  
[smartin1@pinenet.com](mailto:smartin1@pinenet.com)

A close-up photograph of a hand wearing a tan tactical glove holding a SureFire WeaponLight. The light is illuminated, casting a bright glow. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a combat environment. The hand is positioned as if about to use the light.

Dear SureFire,

My team was ambushed south of Fallujah. We were badly outnumbered and engaged by machine guns, mortar, and rocket propelled grenades.

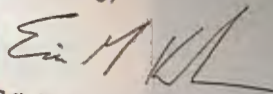
Two RPG's hit us, one of which impacted a foot from my head, breaking my arm, blowing out both eardrums and dislocating my elbow. My M4 carbine, with a SureFire WeaponLight, was blown out of my hands. We fought for an hour and a half before being medevaced.

When I got back my gear I was amazed to find that my SureFire still worked. It was the only piece of my equipment that survived, including the ruined M4 it was mounted on.

I served in Afghanistan and several tours in Iraq. SureFire has passed the test of combat.

Thanks for making one hell of a product.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Kocher".

Sgt. E. Kocher  
USMC



SGT. KOCHER WAS AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR FOR HIS ACTIONS IN FALLUJAH. HE CONTINUES TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING REDEPLOYED TO IRAQ. WE HONOR HIS COURAGE AND THE SACRIFICES MADE DAILY BY AMERICA'S FIGHTING MEN AND WOMEN.

[surefire.com](http://surefire.com)

**SUREFIRE**

Steve, see the above, and the list in John Farnam's column "Combat Weapon Craft" in our next issue.

## USS Kearsarge, LHD-3

I was reading the new issue of *Soldier of Fortune* today and in the article about Choppers you had incorrectly identified the USS Kearsarge as LHD-5. We are LHD-3.

Thanks for the great mag. I've really enjoyed reading it during this deployment. We just got back on Tuesday. Thanks again.

Very Respectfully,  
Jason Caldon

## Merc Reading in the Congo

I have two copies of *The Volunteer*, the world's first soldier-of-fortune newspaper. This was printed by 5 Commando, with the consent of Col. "Mad" Mike Hoare.

I also have the original 5 Commando flag (not the film flag) and shoulder patch, as my Dad who is mentioned in

one of the above papers, served with Mike Hoare in the Congo in 1965. I have researched many times but failed to find the actual printers of the said papers. I do believe they were printed in South Africa.

Do you have any knowledge of the above papers? If so any advice would be gratefully received.

Regards  
Donn Houldsworth  
[donn@houldsworth.net](mailto:donn@houldsworth.net)

*RSA or Rhodesia would be our guess as well, but we'll turn the question over to our eclectic readership, whom almost never fail our request for such arcane information, and they can email you directly. If someone out there is the seminal font of knowledge re: The Volunteer, it might make an interesting story (contact: [editor@sofmag.com](mailto:editor@sofmag.com)).*

## To Whom it May Concern:

This is to certify that I, G. Gordon Liddy, have known personally Lt. Col. Robert K Brown, USAR (Ret.) for the last twenty-five years; that I hold him in

the highest regard and, as a Life and Endowment member of the National Rifle Association, I strongly endorse him for the office of member of the Board of Directors for the upcoming term.

G. Gordon Liddy  
9112 Riverside Drive  
Fort Washington, MD 20744

## The Shooter

Regarding Gunnery Sergeant Jack Coughlin and his "kill" of "Achmed," (SOF Dec. 2005) why didn't he buy this guy a coke and bring him home and adopt the SOB?

This "human" wanted to give himself up? Yeah, right! I'm sorry. I respect snipers but this gunny is a joke.

John Palencia

*The principle involved here is called chivalry, and it's usually one of the things that distinguishes the good guys from the bad guys. I regret your daddy never explained it you. ☒*

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20mm	9.2 MOA	6.9 MOA	6.9 MOA	47.9 MOA	47.9 MOA
16mm	12.1 MOA	6.1 MOA	6.1 MOA	63.1 MOA	63.1 MOA

www.barrettrifles.com



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## Model M107 Semi Automatic Ten Round .50 Caliber Rifle

The Barrett Model 82A1 was designed as a sport shooters answer to long range shooting and fun. When called to the battlefield during Desert Storm, it quickly became the soldier's choice for long-range tactical engagement. Over the next ten years, the 82A1 evolved into the M107 and is now the U.S. Military's long-range sniper rifle.

Recently the Chief of Staff of the US Army published the "Top Ten Inventions" of 2004. The M107 was selected as one of these inventions and is the only small arm ever to make this prestigious list.

Barrett Firearms Mfg., Inc is proud to build the M107 for our U.S. Army's soldiers. This is a truthful example of American firearms manufacturers contributing to the freedoms we enjoy.

The California Legislature has banned the .50 BMG from the good citizens of the state of California violating their rights and the constitution of our republic. Therefore, Barrett will not sell to or service any California government agencies.



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C-5P1105

# Bulletin Board

## High Fives on the High Seas

While hovering in a Lynx helicopter, British Marines from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Ship Wave Knight, sailing in support of Type 22 frigate HMS Cumberland, based at Devonport, England used their .50 AW rifle to shoot out the four engines of a narco go-fast in Caribbean waters off the Nicaraguan coast. This nice shooting from roughly a hundred meters out at a bobbing target netted some two metric tons of coke, worth an estimated 200 million British pounds. The skipper of the Cumberland was alerted to the go-fast by the DEA, and a six-hour stalk and chase ensued. The drugs and the narcos were turned over to the U.S. Coast Guard. Blimey! Nice catch, mates. (But next time, feel free to shoot a little wide and much more often – you might save the U.S. courts some money.)

## Special Request

The holidays are over, but our troops are still in hospitals paying the price for other's freedom.

Now that your writing hand has cooled off after sending out Christmas cards, warm it up again and send some "hey, howdy and thank you" cards and letters to our American military heroes who are recuperating from their wounds. Please enclose a short note thanking them for their service and personal sacrifice. They are the protectors of liberty, and we need to let them know we realize that, and that we appreciate their sacrifice. Here's the address at Walter Reed. You can use the same format at other military hospitals

A Recovering American Soldier  
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20307-5001

## Soldiers' Angels

Because Americans do appreciate what the troops are doing on our be-

half, support organizations have sprung up like mushrooms after a spring rain. Some are mom and pop operations, some are big, some are quasi-official, some have a limited scope and some do it all. In the latter category is Soldier's Angels, which was started by a GI's mom (see also FLAK this issue) and has grown to be a full-spectrum effort. Go to [www.soldiersangels.org](http://www.soldiersangels.org) and get information on how to do everything from donate the car you are no longer using, donate your airline miles so a GI can use them to come home on leave; donate bucks, books, comfort items, sand scarves; submit a wounded hero to receive care packages, donate items for GIs who are helping Iraqi kids, or get involved in tangible and effective support for our troops. Those yellow ribbons and bumper stickers are fine – but the troops never see them. Soldier's Angels concentrate on the things the deployed troops and returning wounded need. Like Project Valour-IT (Voice-Activated Laptops for OUR Injured Troops), a really good endeavor that is outfitting voice-activated laptop computers for troops who have sustained hand and arm injuries or loss. In Phase I, these units are being distributed to major military medical centers for training the troops, and in subsequent phases the units will be supplied for troops to take with them. Soldier's Angels is a lean (but not mean) volunteer outfit, and they have done some very efficient procurement so your donated buck will really pull its weight. And they are reorganized as a non-profit so your donations in cash or in kind are tax-deductible. Check 'em out and grab your checkbook. The holidays may be over, but the war is not: keep the support for the troops coming, and this is a very good pipeline.

Want to volunteer? Submit your name, address, phone number, and email address (and how about an SSAE, and since you're writing, why not throw in a donation check to "Soldier's Angels") to:

Soldiers Angels  
1792 East Washington Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91104

You can also call and leave a message at: 615-676-0239. If you want to e-mail, go to the web site and select the appropriate e-mail contact from those listed.

## San Antonio Calling

Soldier's Angels (above) are involved in myriad projects, and here is a good "for instance": Just before the holidays, the SA volunteers in San Antonio were asking for (this is what we call three-dot journalism, you sort it out:) assorted board games, Hasbro or others like Monopoly, Battleship, Trivial Pursuit, Scrabble, chess, Clue; pool cues (they have dozens of tables), ping-pong balls and paddles, electronic dart boards, new Game-Cube video games (sports or battle ones), new X-Box games (as above), personnel hygiene products (almost anything, there is always a use), adaptive sports equipment (bikes, wheelchairs for basketball, etc.). And they can use comfort items and kid's toys for families staying at the Fisher Houses – plush animals are good, patriotic plush animals are even better.

This is a continuing need, so all patriots: Pony Up! You can mail items to:  
James Riley  
3222 Falling Brook  
San Antonio TX 78258  
Or call Soldiers Angels' Ms. Patti Bader at 626-398-3131

## Highest Immigration in History – 50% Illegal?

A Center for Immigration Studies analysis of new Census Bureau data (available online at <http://www.cis.org>) shows that the immigrant population (legal and illegal) reached a new high in 2005. The data, which the Bureau has not yet analyzed, also show that 2000-2005 is the highest five-year period of new immigration (legal and illegal) in American history. Almost half of new arrivals are estimated to be illegal aliens.

The new report provides a detailed picture of the socio-economic status

of immigrants, including estimates for illegal aliens. States with the largest increase in immigrants are California, Texas Georgia, New Jersey, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Washington, Virginia, Arizona, Tennessee, Minnesota, and Nevada. The report was prepared by the Center's Director of Research, Steven Camarota.

## Immigrant Troubles Down Under

Muslims who want to live under Islamic Sharia law, instead of Australian civil law, have been put on notice by the Australian government officials. While the government targeted radicals in a bid to head off potential terror attacks, and a day after a group of mainstream Muslim leaders pledged loyalty to Australia at a special meeting with Prime Minister John Howard, he and his ministers made it clear that extremists would face a continuing crackdown.

Treasurer Peter Costello, seen as heir apparent to Howard, hinted that some radical clerics could be asked to leave the country if they did not accept that Australia was a secular state and its laws were made by parliament. "If those

are not your values, if you want a country which has Sharia law or a theocratic state, then Australia is not for you," he said on national television. "I'd be saying to clerics who are teaching that there are two laws governing people in Australia, one the Australian law and another the Islamic law, that is false. If you can't agree with parliamentary law, independent courts, democracy, and would prefer Sharia law and have the opportunity to go to another country which practices it, perhaps, then, that's a better option," Costello said. Asked whether he meant radical clerics would be forced to leave, he said those with dual citizenship could possibly be asked to move to the other country.

Education Minister Brendan Nelson later told reporters that Muslims who did not want to accept local values should "clear off". "Basically, people who don't want to be Australians, and they don't want to live by Australian values and understand them, well then they can basically clear off," he said. Separately, Howard angered some Australian Muslims by saying he supported spy agencies monitoring the nation's mosques.

## UN Gun Ban Defeat in Brazil

A Brazilian correspondent of John Farnam's wrote: "Good news from here in Brazil! Last 23rd October our federal government made a national public consult [referendum] about the continued private ownership of guns. The question we Brazilians had to answer was, 'Do you agree to ban the public, commercial sale of all firearms and ammunition?' Only two answers were allowed: 'Yes' or 'No.' 'No' won by 64 to 36, a huge majority.

"IANSAs, the UN, and other Marxists were shocked that their little stunt went down to such a decisive defeat, despite all the effort they put into it. They tried to assure us Brazilians that we're all too stupid to own guns. They got it shoved up their nose!

"Stay strong in the USA. We need your NRA down here!"

John's comment: Fallacious ideas quickly die of their own accord, when they are articulated clearly. That is why you never get a straight answer from a Marxist/liberal. Freedom-loving people everywhere can rejoice in this decisive verdict. ✕




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## Military And Law Enforcement Around The World Use Our "Lethal Tradecraft<sup>®</sup>" To Save Their Lives...

# WHY NOT YOU?

# Hand

### So You've Trained With The Best? However, The Question Is, Best At What? Life And Death Fighting Skills Or Sport Fighting Skills. They Are Worlds Apart!

Please, take a moment of your time to read this article. As you do, remember that the development of this information came directly from personal experience in surviving front line duty in modern warfare both as a covert operator and as an overt operator. Let's get you in the right mind set with the following statement from Mr. Peterson, "Remember there are tricks to being a world class sport fighter, some men are smarter than others and become great champions. However, men that have killed to survive have knowledge and experience far beyond the world of sport fighters. When there is no one left on the battlefield but you, and the enemy, all rules are simplified down to just one, kill to live, giving up is simply **NOT AN OPTION!**"

Give this system a hard look. It will save you time, money, and possibly the life of a client, yourself, or above all your loved ones!

### What Is So Special About The SCARS System? Who Is Behind It?

OK, this is the condensed version. Mr. Jerry Peterson is a former US-ARMY 173rd. Airborne C/4th/503rd Inf. (68-69) Vietnam Vet and the sole founder of SCARS.

He was contracted by the government in the late 80's. During that time, he developed the only 600 hour **Lethal Combat Subject Matter Expert Certification course #K431-0096** for the United States NavSpecWarCom, a.k.a. Navy SEAL Teams, (use the Truth and Information Act to validate this fact). The official establishment of this course was a Historic Event for the **NavSpecWarCom's best warriors!** Jerry's achievement has not been duplicated by any one or group since!

In the mid 90's Jerry Peterson tasked, Blake Peterson, to develop a law enforcement program. The result was **Positive Assertive Control Tactics/Dynamic Response Training © (P.A.C.T./D.R.T. ©)** for law enforcement, that was P. O. S. T. approved by the state of Nevada course #0051601. This proved that SCARS could be reconstructed to a less than lethal application for US Law Enforcement.

Further, the Petersons have personally taught the ARMY'S finest at the JFK Training Center, AIR FORCE Elite COMMANDOES, US Navy Special Boat Units, US Navy SEAL Teams and of course the FBI has the highly regarded SCARS system in their tactical library.

After 9/11 they were contracted by the US Treasury Department's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Roswell, New Mexico. The purpose was to develop advanced **lethal** tactics for securing aircraft in support of US Air Marshals.

SCARS and the Petersons have been well acclaimed in **Forbes Magazine, Maxim, Men's Health, Black Belt, and of course SOF.**

**Say what you will, that's impressive!**

### Our Training System Has Been Tested And Used By Military And Law Enforcement Personnel Around The World. If They Use It To Save Their Lives...

#### WHY NOT YOU!

If you would like more info on SCARS or any SCARS Products go to [www.scars.com](http://www.scars.com) or [www.dachq.com](http://www.dachq.com) It's all there. Once you are satisfied as to our credibility and find the type of training you want then just logon and buy the product online in our secure store 24/7.

Our sign up for hands on training with the Knights of SCARS!

Please...

### Don't Lose Your Head! Don't Be Another Headline!

Remember Hurricane Katrina? Many innocent people died in the aftermath because they lacked basic survival and protection skills that they could have easily learned in 48 to 72 hours of SCARS training! Such as, how to protect their homes, possessions, and lives from looting and riots. Don't let this be you!

### Learn To Protect Yourself Against All Threats With Proven Combat Training!

All SCARS knowledge is taken from real world combat on the modern day battle field, not from a dojo or in a sports arena! If you have a threat you will find a solution for it on our website. Whether it's through the following DVD packages-Official Navy SEAL / Combat Fighting Course, Lethal Weapon Fighting Skills, or the Official Law Enforcement P.A.C.T., DT Training Program-you'll find a solution that fits your needs!

### SCARS DVD Training Programs Have Saved Lives Around The World.

So you owe it to yourself to at least experience the System of SCARS via our DVD training products. We have carefully developed a single DVD taken from over 400 lessons to introduce you to SCARS. All lessons are taken from larger packages, to give you a complete selection of powerful and devastating lessons, we call it...

### "SCARS 05 Lethal"

#### It's A Visual Index Into The World Of SCARS!

All lessons have been used either in combat or on the streets; fighting everything from **terrorists, gangs, robberies, and the common thug!**

This DVD includes lessons taken directly from the Official Navy SEAL / Combat Fighting Course.

"SCARS 05 Lethal" DVD will allow you to see, learn, and do hand-to-hand and hand to weapon fighting skills the right way **within 15 minutes!**

If you watch just one lesson from this video, you'll be able to do it for real in **5 minutes**. You won't look pretty, but you'll damn sure be the one walking away. Remember what you're getting is part of the SCARS Lethal Tradecraft so it does have lethal lessons and a few non-lethal lessons for our law enforcement officers. After all, we must give you a choice!

Frankly 50% of you will never need anything more to protect yourself! You'll find the DVD called "SCARS 05 Lethal" order form on the next page. It's just \$29.95 plus shipping. You can bet it will handle 90% of any threat and if you're an average civilian, 100% of any threat!  
**Now if you want more...**

### How About A \$3,200 Dollar Sponsorship To Get Into A Live Training Event!

When we receive your order for the "SCARS 05 Lethal" either through this ad or [www.scars.com](http://www.scars.com), we will give you a limited **one time \$3,200 sponsorship**. We'll even give you one full year to use it! You'll need to go to the [www.scars.com](http://www.scars.com) to get the full details.

But in short, you will be able to reduce your live 3-day training cost by \$3,200! That means you will only pay \$1800 where others have paid \$5000 and up! (Limited Time Offer)

This is a special training event, which Mr. Peterson personally conducts. Just so you know, anything that Jerry or Blake teaches starts at a minimum of **\$5000 per person**, and that's a group rate! You can see why **Men's Health** and **Forbes** were interested. This sponsorship is intended to give everyone at least **one** chance to learn the lethal science of SCARS, and to meet and train with the men that started it all!

Remember! All you need to do is take a chance for just \$29.95. If it's crap, then you lose nothing but a lunch. Isn't your life worth that?

**ATTENTION PROFESSIONALS:** If you're a civilian contractor in security or infrastructure support, and you are not fully satisfied that you can personally handle a lethal assault due to the low standard non-lethal police training, please read this article. If you want a proven combat training program, then Special Combat Aggressive Reactionary Systems® SCARS®™ is a must have!

# SCARS

## Lethal Tradecraft®™



## to - Weapon Skill Training

# \$1.8 Million Dollars For Our Loyal SCARS Customers ...

If you've been out of touch with us, and are not familiar with the NEW "Fraternal Order of the Knights of SCARS ©™" you need to go to [www.scars.com](http://www.scars.com). You may very well qualify to receive a two part training and membership sponsorship, one for \$3,200 and the other for \$36,000.00. Yes, your reading right, \$36K... plus a lifetime of personal one on one training from Jerry and Blake Peterson. Remember, they have trained the best of the best, so why not you? It has taken 3 years to set up the "Fraternal Order of the Knights of SCARS" we have sponsored over \$1,800,000.00!!! Now, those very men have voted to open the doors to you with a limited number of sponsorships. Shouldn't you have a chance to at least experience one awesome event? Coming to a training event doesn't obligate you to join the Knights. **Please don't miss out...**

**Our newly formatted DVDs are a thousand times better than the past VHS format...**

All our loyal SCARS customers that have purchased the outdated VHS products, it's time to switch to the newly formatted DVD! These newly formatted DVDs come with a complete quick scan lesson index to jump right to the lessons of choice or freeze frame at any point with perfect clarity. This DVD format is the absolute best in review training! Now is the time to get the complete revised historic combat fighting system that still to this day is preferred by those going to, or in high risk areas of the world where lethal action may be the only way you will survive. **Make the switch Today!**

If you're hesitating, that is to be expected. Further, you're not at all alone. Most trained professionals act in disbelief when we state it is 100% effective. PLEASE Don't think this is just another exaggerated advertisement! In All Honesty intelligent people will go through the following decision making process when confronted with a revolutionary idea. It's just the science of psychology.

1. Total Disbelief that SCARS is undefeatable and works 100% of the time!
  - A. Can be learned via a DVD!
  - B. Efficient to the point of saving one's life!
  - C. Totally wipe out FEAR from the Mind!
2. Acting in a Rhetorical fashion, unsupported ridicule, saying to yourself this has to be Bull Sh#, and other colorful statements!
3. Reading our website and reluctantly understanding it
4. Taking a leap of faith and purchasing a DVD training package.
5. Being highly impressed by the results and purchasing more of SCARS and signing up for Live Training.
6. Becoming a SCARS enthusiast and trying to persuade others by telling them it really works! The damn stuff really works!
7. Being ridiculed and ignored by the friends who think you've lost your mind.
8. After just days of using the SCARS program your friends admire your knowledge and abilities and your positive mind set!
9. You're telling them (again) that SCARS is 100% effective!
10. Those friends reluctantly buy their own SCARS DVDs program and the cycle starts all over.

**WARNING:** There are people that never get beyond step 2 above. They are stuck within their own rhetorical action supported by unfounded and unsupported ridicule. **THEY FEAR.** Thus they suffer from **SCARSOPHOBIA.** Like anyone at the top, we have our share of these nuts!

**IT'S JUST THE WAY REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS ARE, AND SCARS IS REVOLUTIONARY!!!**



### Send Me the DVD

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# Afghan Patrol

**With Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry**

**Peacekeepers Help Make Kabul Safe For Democracy**

Text & Photos by  
Warrant Officer Tracy Sapera





*Kabul, 16 September.* After last week's rocket attacks, a deadly car bomb blast downtown, reports of shots fired near our camp and the Afghani Presidential election rapidly approaching in October, we learned in our Orders-Group, (O-Gp) that nine suicide bombers had entered the Kabul area. In an effort to counter this threat, Bravo Company intensified its patrolling activities in and around the 2-kilometer perimeter of Camp Julien, located in southern Kabul. I took this opportunity to go out with a Section [Squad] from 5 Platoon in order to get a feel for the terrain and see the reaction of the local populace to our patrolling.

After receiving detailed orders and conducting rehearsals, we mounted up in our Light Armoured Vehicles or LAV III's. Dressed in our new digital-style Canadian Pattern, (cad-pat) combat clothing for desert operations, we wore our armoured vest with chest and back plates, load-bearing vest, (LBV) for carrying our rifle magazines and other essential equipment, and Kevlar helmet with a mounted Monocular Night Vision Goggle (MNVG) for observing in the dark. We carried our heavy-barrel C8 [M16A2] rifle with infra-red, (IR) pointer and SureFire flashlight, both mounted on a rail system. We also had two C9 [M249 SAW] gunners with us as we depart Camp Julien.

It was nearing last light and we were dropped off approximately 2 km north of camp. For security reasons, vehicles only leave camp in pairs, and our two LAVs stopped in the middle of the road while the patrol quickly dismounted with security out on the flanks, with two air sentries per vehicle standing in the rear of the LAV's watching their arcs – and our backs. Traffic stopped and locals stared. Ramps up and the LAVs quickly departed. We immediately left the main road in single file and headed down an alley followed by 10 or 15 kids who soon lost interest when they realized that we aren't giving anything away.

I'm fifth in the Order of March, (OOM) in a 10-man dismounted foot patrol, behind the Navigator, Patrol Commander, Language Assistant, and Signaller. It's now dusk and the alley we're moving along varies in width between 6 and 10 feet and is bordered by adobe walls measuring 6 to 12 feet in height that surround homes, act as fences and delineate property lines. As we meander our way along these alleys, dusk turns to night and we proceed down uneven dirt paths with trenches dug down the middle that act as open sewers, reeking of shit, piss and garbage. As we progress, we pass by Afghans going about their business; Some of them occasionally greet us with "Salim" or "Hello." But mostly they just stare. We quickly realize that they only know one or two words of our language and have no replies for "How are you?"



*Foot patrols through the malodorous streets of Kabul take the peace-keepers down back alleys comprising open sewers, through quiet neighborhoods (left bottom), and down streets paved with litter (left top) – but at least these streets are no longer littered with bodies from factional fighting. For many years, the Maple Leaf has flown over troubled areas where Canadians help keep the peace (right inset).*

We continue down these darkened alleys, careful not to twist our ankles on the rutted paths or step in something foul in the open sewer, as we scan the rooftops and fence lines for snipers or signs of an impending ambush. Beat-up old vehicles bump past us as we close our "disengaged eye," trying not to spoil our night vision, aware that they could be carrying a suicide bomber or a Vehicle Born Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED). The threat here is real. Unlike Bosnia, where we seldom if ever left the paved roads or hard-pack, here we judge the roads and dirt paths by a "risk assessment" dependant on the amount of local traffic.

Occasionally, we stop for a navigation check, as we twist and turn our way in what seems like a random manner in these maze-like roads, knowing that at any moment we could be ambushed from any direction. On our radio, we occasionally hear the Patrol Commander or Patrol Second in Command, (2IC) issue instructions to watch a certain T-junction or to change direction or formation as the path narrows and widens or twists and turns. From a nearby Mosque, we hear the Muslim nightly prayers echoing down the "road," not really knowing from which direction the sound is coming. We hear a radio playing in a home, as people go about their nightly business and we go about ours. The alleys are extremely dark, as this area has no electricity. The occasional light we do see is from a kerosene lantern. The night is overcast with no moon and a bit of a wind, which kicks up dust and forces us to squint into the dark. We change direction and now the mud walls act as a wind tunnel and a dust devil passes through the patrol. The boys are bunching up and I tell them to spread it out to three paces between each man and to watch their arcs of fire. The Language Assistant stops



The sun sets on a patrol down a dusty side street that will be a river of mud with the first rain. If the peace can be kept, then the infrastructure, it is hoped, will follow.

for a piss against a wall.

### A Busload of Tomorrow

We see lights approaching and hear singing. A bus bumps its way past us, full of singing kids waving at us. We wave back and try to regain our night vision and stay focused on our mission. Intelligence tells us that 95% of the locals support us. Kabul is home to more than three million people and 5% of three million still leaves a lot of bad guys around to ruin your day! Each of us has a green chem. light, cracked and protruding about an inch out of our vests so we can identify "friend from foe" without the aid of our night vision goggles. On occasion, we lower them to check out a suspicious door-

*Continued on page 32*

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ended reading for students in big-city police sniper schools. Overseas, the Karen National Liberation Army in Myanmar translated sections for its resistance fighters, and the Philippine Marine Corps regarded the book so highly that it copied its art for its sniper unit logo. Perhaps GySgt. Carlos Hathcock, legendary U.S. Marine Corps sniper during the Vietnam War, summed it up best: "Just plain dad-gum good."

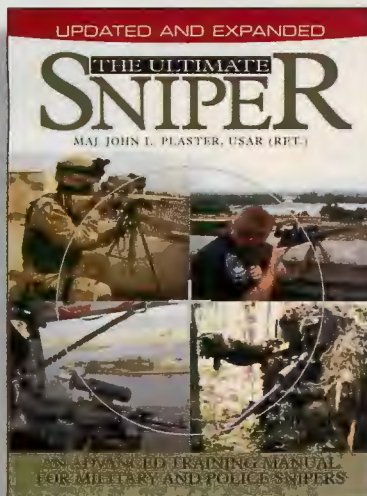
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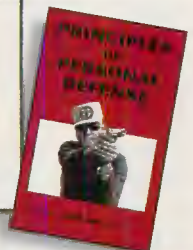


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# Maelstrom in Baghdad

## The One-Way Fight

By Michael Fobbit

**O**ver the past few weeks, we'd been warned about signs of impending action. These signs – and worries – always precede big events in Iraq, and we were approaching the National Elections on 15 December. Quite a while ago, a large body of insurgents and terrorists – in the hundreds according to after-action reports – attacked the Abu Ghraib prison facility about four miles away, apparently in an effort to free some of their buddies captured during anti-terror raids and campaigns. It was a pretty big shootout for a few hours, and quite a surprise, as it wasn't expected that the enemy could concentrate that many people for such an attack. They are normally too scattered, too diverse, and too disorganized to get together like that, not having a central command structure, central goals, common ethnic groups, etc. to bring them together. In spite of its unusual organization, the attack was a complete failure, with few American casualties and many enemy deaths, including a few of the prisoners who were hit by insurgent mortar fire during the attack.

But, following that attack, there had always been the concern that it might happen again, and with better planning. My work and quarters locations are somewhat vulnerable. The work site is valuable because of what we do.


Baghdad is one of the centers of fighting due to its mix of Sunni and Shi'a inhabitants. Every home has at least one AK – fact, not hyperbole. There are gunshots every day, often every hour, from the village, with a few explosions thrown in for good measure, so it is a bit tense around here. But the gunfire is usually ineffective and the mortars and rockets have missed hitting people here most of the time. On occasion we found out the villagers fought off enemy insurgents coming to attack us through their village. We are not sure it is because they support what we are doing, or are territorial – thinking that we are “their” targets, not anyone else's. Such is the nature of internecine warfare in Iraq.

If anyone attacked through our perimeter wall with car bombs, to open it up or to take down one or two guard towers, we and our “homes” would be on the route to the main targets. The other bases in the area have larger components of combat troops than we do, adding to our exposure.

So, when we hear the “signs” of impending attack preparation, we take them seriously. The problem is, every time there is a major event like the elections coming, we always hear rumors of enemy actions in response.

As I said, the elections were coming this week. My office worked as usual until around 2000 or 2100 hours, then, as we have been doing for the past three or four Saturdays, a

*Continued on page 46*



*Sgt. Mitchell Levart, from 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, keeps an eye out for insurgents in Namla village, Iraq. This photo appeared on [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)*



# Remembering RAMADI

## Leathernecks Critique A Hard-Won Victory

By Dale B. Cooper

*"Ramadi was rough." — Sergeant Clayton T. Anderson, Assistant Sniper Team Leader "Seminole Bravo"*

**F**irst Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, First Marine Division is back home at Camp Pendleton, California licking its wounds after its third combat deployment to Iraq since spearheading the attack that led to the downfall of Iraqi president Saddam Hussein. 1/5 deployed to Ar Ramadi, the capital of Al Anbar Province, in the heart of the so-called "Triangle of Death," west of Baghdad in March of 2005. The battalion returned home six months later.

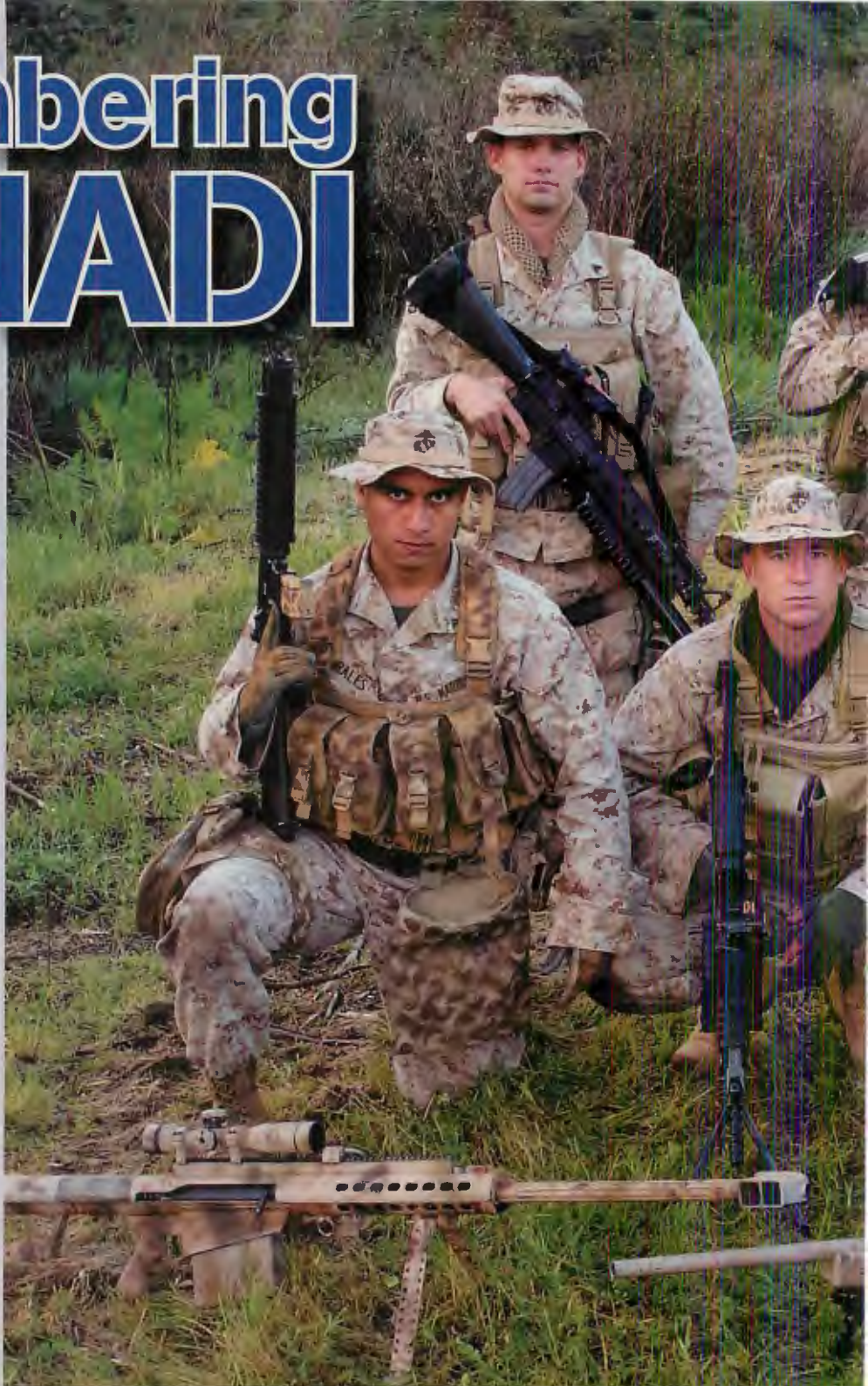
The "Fighting Fifth" lost 15 Marines and a Navy corpsman KIA and 130 WIA in Ramadi, more KIAs than the two previous deployments combined. Five of the KIAs were due to enemy snipers. The other Marines, most of whom were on their third deployment to Iraq, died as the result of IEDs.

Improvised Explosive Devices are feared more than enemy snipers in Iraq today. Like hand grenades and horseshoes, you only have to be close with an IED. They are stealthy like snipers in that they can't be seen, and strike without warning. And they are much more deadly. IEDs can rip open armored Humvees and amphibious assault vehicles like cans of sardines.

Lance Corporal Marty G. Mortenson and Corporal Kelly M. Cannan with 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Company A, were killed a month into the deployment when an improvised explosive device detonated near their convoy.

### Saddest Day

Two months later, the battalion suffered its biggest blow when six of its warriors were slain in Ramadi on June 15. Five of the Marines were killed when their Humvee was destroyed by



an IED.

Corporal Tyler S. Trovillion, a grenadier and team leader, died alongside four comrades from 3<sup>rd</sup> Squad, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Company A – Corporal Jesse Jaime and Lance Corporals Chad B. Maynard, Dion M. Whitley and Jonathan R. Flores – when an IED exploded directly underneath their Humvee.

Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> class Cesar O. Baez, a corpsman with the Jump Platoon, was killed by an enemy sniper in a separate incident the same day. Baez, 37, had

completed law school and passed the California bar exam while in the Navy.

According to Trovillion's best friend, Lance Corporal Ben A. Lively, from Richardson, Texas had a knack for spotting IEDs. He had uncovered several in Ramadi, but the veteran of two previous deployments to Iraq never saw the one that ended his life and snuffed out the lives of four other Marines in a blinding flash.

"I know guys in our battalion who were hit by 16 or 17 IEDs during our



*"Sierra Bravo," one of three sniper teams in 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, started out at Camp Pendleton as a five-man team and morphed into an eight-man team in Ramadi. Front row left to right; Lance Corporals Jesse Morales, Jeremiah Johnson and Billy Thompson. Top row left to right; Corporal Clay Anderson, Sergeant Gerald Hooee. Photo: Courtesy USMC*

ahead. As they crossed the median, an IED detonated in the intersection, spraying their Humvee with bits of shrapnel. Not everyone in the battalion was as lucky.

Captain John W. Maloney, the commanding officer of Charley Company, was killed on the evening of June 16, 2005 when an IED detonated beneath his Humvee. His .50 caliber machine gunner, Lance Corporal Erik R. Heldt, was also killed in the blast. Maloney, a prior enlisted Marine, and his company were conducting a vehicle reconnaissance of a portion of the company's AO when the IED exploded.

At Maloney's memorial service at Camp Snake Pit in Ramadi six days later, the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Eric M. Smith, read a letter Maloney's wife wrote to the Marines of C Company:

"John was very proud to serve alongside you and took every chance he had to brag about you," wrote Maloney's widow, Michelle, who is left to raise two young children.

Company C's Executive Officer, First Lieutenant Latham E. Fell followed Smith's eulogy by saying Maloney always put his men and friends before himself. "What I remember best about him was his total commitment to his Marines," said Fell, "He demanded the highest levels of performance from his men, but even more so from us."

### **Tough Tour of Duty**

Like it did during World War Two, the Vietnam War, and during the invasion of Iraq, First Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment once again paid the butcher's bill in blood, but 1/5 always doles out more death and destruction than is inflicted upon one of the best battalions in the United States Marine Corps.

"Ramadi was rough," said Sgt. Anderson, assistant team leader of "Seminole Bravo," one of three eight-man sniper teams in 1/5. This was Anderson's third combat tour, a "Tri-fecta" of sorts. One week after returning to Camp Pendleton, Anderson talked about his tour during a late night telephone interview that lasted more than an hour.

"Ramadi's like the lion's den of their little religious war," said Anderson, "and while we were there, we didn't fight many Iraqis. The insurgents were mostly from other countries."

There weren't many veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom who deployed to Ramadi. Only 120 or so from the original roster of 1,100 made the third deployment.

Anderson was a SAW gunner in First Platoon, Charlie Company during the invasion of Iraq. When Anderson returned home in May 2003, he was selected to attend Arabic language school. When 1/5 deployed to Iraq the following spring, Anderson was attached to CAP, the Combined Action Platoon, as a squad leader. He and his squad patrolled the farmland outside of Fallujah trying to win the "hearts and minds" of the local population, in hopes of learning the whereabouts of insurgents and weapons caches being used against Marines in Fallujah. Not since Vietnam had the Marine Corps deployed a Combined Action Platoon in a combat role.

Corporal Anderson was wounded along with 75 percent of his platoon when they were ambushed outside Fallujah. Anderson was hit in the elbow by a ricocheting AK-47 round, but had no lingering effects after the wound healed. But the incident changed his mind about how he wanted to spend the rest of his enlistment. He wanted to be the one doing the

deployment to Ramadi," said Sgt. Anderson, who had two close calls.

"We knew we were gonna get hit," said Anderson as he recalled the night his Humvee ran over an explosive device, probably a 60 "mike-mike" mortar round, buried too deeply in the road to cause catastrophic damage to the armored vehicle but still make a big boom. The blast sent fireballs up both sides of the high-back steel-plated Hummer Anderson's 8-man team was riding in, but they survived without a scratch.

On another occasion, the team was heading to a private home in Ramadi when the driver missed a turn. Instinctively, Anderson ordered him to cross the median strip of the dual-lane highway instead of continuing on to an intersection





*(left) Corporal Tyler S. Trovillion, a grenadier and team leader with 3<sup>rd</sup> Squad, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Company A met General Michael Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps on April 6, two months before Trovillion and Lance Corporal Dion M. Whitley, behind machine gun in the turret of their Humvee in this picture, were killed with two other Marines by an IED. (right) Private First Class Dylan R. Muga, a rifleman in the "Dirty Deuces," 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Company B., 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment posts security at a street corner in Ramadi during a patrol. Photos: Corporal Tom Sloan, USMC*



"ambushing," instead of waiting for someone else to pull the trigger. When he returned to Camp Pendleton, Anderson applied for Scout Sniper School. He never attended the school, but he was assigned to 1/5's Scout Sniper Platoon. Anderson was an expert marksman, and that's what SSP needed. There was at that time, and still is, a shortage in the Marine Corps of 8541s, the MOS [Military Occupational Specialty] of Scout Snipers. Anderson's ability to shoot and speak Arabic made him extremely desirable, and he deployed to Ramadi as an assistant sniper team leader. But he didn't get the rush he thought he would get.

"The battalion just didn't have the character it had when 1/5 invaded Iraq," said Anderson. "And the fact we really didn't have time between deployments to do complete workups [which] hurt us in the field," Anderson said. The battlefield had also changed dramatically since Anderson rode through the sand berms that separated Iraq from its neighbor, Kuwait, and engaged enemy soldiers in the strategically important Ramalyah oil fields just a few clicks inside the border.

Marine snipers stacked up insurgents like cords of wood in Fallujah in the spring of 2004. City elders begged Major General James N. Mattis, commanding officer of First Marine Division to pull back his snipers. They apparently thought Mattis had hundreds of them. Before "Mad Dog" Mattis and his Marines could apply the coup de grace to Fallujah, politics entered the picture, and 1/5 was ordered to pull its cordon back 10 to 15 miles. Enemy insurgents, including snipers with Syrian passports, managed to swim across the Euphrates River after dark and slip downstream to Ramadi.

When 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, the unit this reporter was embedded with during Operation Iraqi Freedom, returned to Ramadi in the spring of 2005, the bad guys were waiting for them.

At first, Marine snipers ruled the roost. They shot and killed almost everyone who was caught carrying a weapon on the streets, but it wasn't long before the "Hunters" became the "Hunted" in the Triangle of Death. Enemy snipers in Ramadi were better than the ones 1/5 faced in Fallujah. For one thing, they were better shots – no more "spraying and praying." They not only nailed Marines on rooftops who exposed themselves, but also picked off targets on the move.

Staff Sergeant Ramon E. Gonzales-Cordova was killed as he led a platoon of Iraqi Security Forces and several Marines on a foot patrol through Ramadi. Gonzales-Cordova was the platoon sergeant for 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Company C during the fighting in Fallujah and for the first three months or so of this deployment, when he was selected to train new members of the ISF and lead them on counter-insurgency sweeps in Ramadi.

Sniper fire also killed Corporal Garry W. Rimes, a rifleman and scout with 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Weapons Company, but

*Continued on page 78*

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little Alfredo — my 5'7" 128-pounds staff editor — expertly shot and stuck a paper clip, (*that's right, a paper clip*), into a rock-hard plaster wall — *from across the office*.

He mastered this skill after watching this new "Dead-Eye Power Throwing"™ material just *ONCE!*

Now understand that I'm a 6'4", 250 pound ex-football player. After over 16 years of hanging out with the most dangerous street-fighters and combat-hardened Special Forces soldiers on the planet — I *know* my hand-to-hand fighting. So let's just say I could snap Alfredo into pieces if I got my hands on him.

But when I saw that paper clip vibrating from the wall like a tuning fork — well it occurred to me that I'd be in serious trouble if Alfredo suddenly decided to fire his next paper clip — or even that nearby Bic pen — *in my direction*.

All of the sudden...

## Little Alfredo Didn't Look So "Little" Anymore.

But of course Alfredo didn't throw *anything* my way — mainly because I sign his paycheck — but that's *not* my point.

Here's why I'm telling you all this: In just a couple fast hours you'll have 100% control of ANY fight from a *safe distance*, allowing you to *always* be one step ahead of your opponent

— even highly experienced “dirty tricks” street fighters and black belts. He’ll be shocked... stunned... and *scared as hell* when a piece of fence wire suddenly sinks deep into his thigh bone before he can even get into your *spitting* range. And when the full realization hits him — that the tables have turned and *he’s* the target... he’ll stumble back in fear... panic... then scramble off like a wounded animal.

Believe me he’ll want nothing more than to...

### Get The Hell Away From You!

That’s how *fast* it’ll be over. What’s more... this will *scare the living hell* out of any “back-up” friends who may have been planning a classic “gang-bang” attack. They’ll be running for the hills.

*It’s true!* Everyone who sees this “Power Throwing”™ in action is absolutely *astounded* at how easy it is to learn and how mega-effective the results. It’s almost unbelievable to see a small and unassuming man pick up a wooden stick and effortlessly drive it straight through a thick plaster wall from 20-feet out.

The trick is *knowing* HOW it’s done — and it’s *not very hard!*

*Still having trouble believing all this?* That’s okay — I’m used to people being suspicious... *at first*. But like I said what you’re about to learn is something only **FIVE** people have mastered — and just **ONE** willing to share it with you.

### You Don’t Want To Be The One Caught Without These Skills.

Here’s the **ONE** guy willing to teach you this: Through certain inside “contacts” (which I am *not* going to tell you about) I was approached by **Bob Taylor**. He’s considered one of the country’s most experienced experts in counter insurgency operations; state, local and federal law enforcement agencies use him frequently for training. He is also a specialist in counterterrorism for African, South American and Central American governments.

Bob Taylor is just **5 feet 6 inches tall**, and maybe 140 pounds soaking wet (on a good day). Small features. Thin arms, thin legs, thin neck. You’d *never* pick him for a fighter. Too little.

Nevertheless, Bob Taylor is widely regarded among the elite martial arts world as perhaps the best “**self educated**” street fighter around. *Nobody* who knows about Bob’s fighting abilities would ever willingly go up against him without packing a loaded shotgun. Hand to hand, you will *lose a fight against him*, no matter how big, or muscled, or experienced you are. Why?

### Because He Fights To Live... And He Fights Dirty As Hell!

Bob developed his unique style of “dirty fighting” during his **40 years of formal training**, bar brawls and street fights, bounty hunting and busting up narcotics gangs. He served his country well as a “hot-zone” combat soldier in Vietnam, worked as a private eye, a personal *armed bodyguard* to superstar rock groups (like **Aerosmith**, the **Who** and **Led Zeppelin**), and a canine handler for 11 separate jurisdictions. He’s also a recognized “**Chi Master**” — at an infamous **Soldier of Fortune** convention, he drove a **steel rod through his forearm**, tied it to a new Ford Mustang, and *dragged the car 287 feet...* without blood, without pain, without scarring. (Don’t try this at home.)

What’s more, Bob is among the few **world-**

**class masters** left in the forgotten art of “**throwing**”. He’s a master at creating **improvised weapons** — practically from thin air — then sticking it through **ANYTHING** — from flesh to metal. I’ve seen him stick an unsharpened coat-hanger *through* a car door at ten feet. *Astonishing!*

But what’s really exciting is that...

### Bob’s Now Willing To Reveal These Wicked Power-Throwing Secrets To YOU!

It’s all on 2 - DVDs called “Dead Eye Power Throwing”™.

#### DVD #1: Power Throwing™ Techniques

On this first DVD you’ll learn everything you’ll need to know about the advanced fundamentals to quickly developing your own “throwing” skills. Here’s just a taste of what you’re about to discover:

- ✓ The *wildly effective* “**back hand**” shot. Even little kids who can’t tie their own shoes can use this to stick a weapon *deep* into target. NO coordination skills required — but the results are *stunning!*
- ✓ The amazing secret “**physics**” behind power throwing™. Even scientists are *puzzled* at why “**drag**” and gravity are almost totally irrelevant when it comes to true power throwing™, (it’s the trick to getting almost anything — even paper clips — to stick from 10-20 feet).
- ✓ The awesome “**double tap**” secret to using **BOTH** hands. It’s like having a double barreled shotgun and guaranteed to leave ANY attacker humiliated and running for his life. He won’t have a clue where these shots are coming from!
- ✓ The simple “**geometric**” reasons why you **NEVER** want to use your wrist. Learn to fire any weapon with 100% accuracy and “**penetration**” power. It’s all *super easy* with NO complex skills to master.
- ✓ Why “**weight distribution**” *doesn’t matter a bit*. You’ll use the same technique to throw a *dinner fork* as you’ll use to throw a 10-pound stick — *simple once you see how!*
- ✓ The cool “**Wrong Hand**” throwing technique that allows you to use your “**weak**” hand to throw. It may draw some “**throwing-like-a-girl**” laughs — but they’ll shut-up quick when they see how much power and damage you’re delivering with this one throw.
- ✓ Two secrets to “**foot placement**” for **firing with power and accuracy** while on the move. Seems the “**opposite**” at first — (which is why everyone does this wrong) but Bob shows you why this is the one *right way*.
- ✓ The trick to achieving **3 different kinds of “tumbles”** to your throwing weapon. These secrets will have you *mastering* power, penetration, and accuracy at varying distances. Anyone watching won’t know **HOW** you’re doing it!
- ✓ A very cool “**feign**” that’ll **trick your attacker into “planting” himself** — making him an *easy target* to hit. He’ll have no idea that you’re setting him up like a bowling pin.
- ✓ The principles of “**Point, Accuracy, and Power**” that will allow you a wicked “**foot shot**” for when you want him to “**stick around**” without hurting him too bad. This will get his attention fast and have him obeying your every command.
- ✓ A very cool “**rapid fire**” tactic that will *thrill and delight* you. Watch in amazement as Bob Taylor teaches you how to “**machine**

gun” off a variety of objects (including a dinner fork... butter knife... piece of thin wire... a screw driver... and more). Within seconds your target will look like a wounded porcupine. Believe me... **NO man can withstand this onslaught.**

- ✓ A *mean* little “**underhand pitch**” that allows you to conceal your weapon and suddenly fire it *while on the move*. A dirty trick that will end it *all fast!*
  - ✓ The *sneaky... nasty... and devastating* “**quarter-turn reverse grip**” throw. He won’t see this one coming and there’s nothing he can do about it *even if he does*. This is the *nuclear bomb* of throwing moves — the one secret trick you’ll want to save for when you *really* need it!
- And MORE... a lot more!** Simple “**arching**” techniques that generate massive power shots... An easy “**palm throw**” that ensures *total accuracy* in tight quarters... The secrets to **choosing “expedient” weapons** to attack from “**outside a man’s range of influence**”... Why a fixed blade or folding knife is **NOT** designed to be thrown... The “**windmill**” throw that uses maximum “**shoulder radius**” for super-accurate *long shots*... when to throw straight at a target and when to *angle* your shots... How a simple *wooden dowel* can be the **BEST** training tool for developing a true power throw™ ... *and tons more*. Way too much for me to cover here.

And that’s just the **first DVD**.

#### DVD #2 Improvised Throwing Weapons

This DVD goes *deep* into using “**expedient weapons**”. This is where you discover how you distract... *stun*... *maim*... or kill using damn near *anything* lying around. You’ll learn:

- The **TWO** most important things you need to know about **choosing an expedient weapon** — and how this *guarantees* you’ll immediately recognize what’ll work as an effective (and possibly lethal) throwing weapon and what *won’t*.
  - How just 25 seconds (and with NO tools) you can **triple the impaling power** of a simple a “**butter knife**”. It’s a simple trick that turns a *ho-hum weapon* into a fierce throwing weapon. You’ve GOT to see this one to believe it!
  - The amazing secret to **throwing and spearing with a tree branch** and why you *don’t* want to start with dry wood. Bob shows you the simple process to instantly creating a devastating wooden weapon in *seconds!*
  - Why you’ll want to aim some **shots straight into his face**. Follow what Bob tells you and your attacker will be running for cover *like a wounded animal*.
  - How to literally **DOUBLE the sticking power of a standard dinner fork**. In less than **20 seconds** you’ll have a weapon that will inflict horrible damage from 15-feet away.
  - How to transform a **glass mirror into dozens of wicked “throwing knives”**. You’ll discover how to easily throw them like “**hollow-point bullets**” — shattering deep *inside* your attacker. Plus Bob shows you the simple “**scraping**” trick to throwing glass shards bare-handed — with **NO** chance of cutting yourself.
- And more.** Easy tips (they’ll take just a couple seconds) to a turn a ball point pens, pencils, even paper clips, into deadly missiles... How specific weapons dictate which target you’ll fire at... Just how “**deep**” certain thrown weapons

will penetrate through clothing and flesh... which weapons will shock him, and which ones will kill him... exactly how to deliver devastating facial shots... and a lot more.

**Absolutely stunning information!** And you know it'll all work in the "real world" because Bob "sticks" his weapons into thick slabs of beef "rump roast" (stuffed into a pair of Levi jeans), and straight through tough Archery Plastic Foam designed to stop arrows shot from an 80-pound compound-bow. ALL his targets are much tougher than human flesh - PROVING this power throwing™ really works!

Okay - a lot of this stuff isn't pretty, so do me a favor. Learn it all... then keep it to yourself. Don't show this to your co-workers... your family... or your friends...

### This Will Be YOUR Secret!

Because this "Dead Eye Power Throwing"™ gives you unbelievable power. Your size or strength doesn't matter *one bit* anymore. I don't care if you're *tiny and frail* - these skills will suddenly make you a 600-pound gorilla - an undefeatable beast that can inflict vicious, brutal, potentially lethal devastation on your attacker. And the best part is that it can all be learned after just ONE viewing of this material.

No need to announce your skills - they'll be broadcasted loud and clear to anyone who can recognize total confidence. *You don't have to say a thing!*

I only ask that you use this material wisely. Demonstrate mercy when you can. It's a big responsibility just knowing this stuff.

So here's what you need to do now: Call my office *right away* and tell the operator you're interested in Bob Taylor's "Dead-Eye Power Throwing"™ DVD package. That toll-free number is:

**1-800-899-8153**

Department DE-20

My staff is standing by 24-hours a day, 7 days a week so there's no wrong time to phone. Use your credit card.

The price for this entire package - two DVDs, nearly two solid hours of intensive instruction - is just \$97. So you're already getting a great deal here.

**But there's more.** If you are not 100% convinced - for any reason whatsoever - that these new skills are as exciting and powerful as I say - then simply send the package back (in any condition) for a fast refund. That means *you don't risk a penny* if you aren't completely satisfied, which is your chance...

### To See It All FREE If You Choose!

It's a generous offer that I can ONLY make because I'm so confident that you'll love this and won't want to let it out of your hands. *This is the real thing.*

But if you'd rather pay by check or money order, just fill out the "Priority Order Form" below and mail it to:

**TRS Direct • Dept. DE-20  
606 E. Acequia Ave., Visalia, CA 93292**

Either way, your package will be rushed out to you.

**But hold on... there's still more.** No matter what you later decide, I want you to *keep* the

second DVD "Improvised Weapons" as my gift to you. It's the coolest part of the entire package - and it's yours FREE - even if you decide to return the rest of the package for a full and prompt refund.

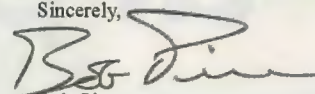
**But there is just one catch:** The company lawyer is going absolutely nuts over the brutal nature of these "Power Throwing"™ secrets. He thinks I should forget about marketing this all together. It's just WAY to easy to learn - so I've agreed to limit the production run to just 188 packages. That's plenty to go around - but only if you act NOW!

Because yes... this is indeed nasty, AND easy to learn. Just watching these DVDs will give you the instant advantage in any fight. In a couple of fast hours, you will be able to take care of ANY dangerous situation from the comfort of 10-20 feet away. No duking it out... no risking your own blood. You'll suddenly be an *untouchable force* to be reckoned with.

So don't sit around thinking about this. There isn't much time. You've got NOTHING to lose - and the "improvised weapons" is yours FREE no matter what. So call today, or mail in your order right now. This is a genuine bargain... and a once-

in-a-lifetime chance to finally learn these secrets.

Sincerely,



Bob Pierce

**P.S.** Like I said - it's two DVDs - nearly two full hours of brutal, vicious and very nasty "Power Throwing"™ training. You'll discover the most cutting-edge "throw & impale" methods for keeping your distance while still inflicting severe damage on your opponent. It's all RISK FREE to you - but the entire second DVD - "Improvised Weapons" (very cool stuff on using damn near anything as a throwing weapon), is yours to KEEP. But the brutal nature of this material has forced me to limit production to just 188 packages. After that, you won't ever see it again. P.P.S. I know if the guys on my staff who - after just ONE viewing - are busy sticking pencils... pens... even paper clips into bulletin boards... walls... heck... even thick wooden doors around the office - then this will work for YOU too. P.P.P.S. Check out what guys who KNOW are saying about TRS and this "Dead Eye Power Throwing"™.

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"I can testify to the saving of two officers whose lives were saved because of (Randy and Bob's disarmament techniques)." -- Bog Dugan, President, Executive Security International, LTD (Aspen, CO.)

"The knowledge in these four videos could save your life." -- Nell C. Livingstone, author and expert on terrorism and national security.

"...Without a doubt this is the most viable and practical system of weapons disarmament in existence." -- Colonel Fred Caristo, USA (Ret)

"...It is my opinion that every active-duty law enforcement officers should have access to those video series. These videos will save lives!" -- Dave Chatellier, CEO of "A Place To Shoot", 20 years active military service, 13 years Civilian Special Operational Services.



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# Purple Hearted

Another Finest Generation...

Text & Photos by SSG Jack Lewis, WARNG



*Yuse posts a rogue's gallery of terrorist WANTED posters in the town of Sinjar in western Nineveh province, while another PSYOP soldier (not in picture) overwatches him. (inset) SGT Yuse is awarded Purple Heart for wounds received in battle, along with the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, by Seventh PSYOP Group Commander COL Gary A. Medvigy.*

Tactical PSYOP Team 1291 deployed to Iraq in September, 2004 as a three-soldier "slice" of Tactical PSYOP Detachment 1290. TPT 1291 was tasked to support "Rattlesnake" 2-14 Cavalry, a maneuver squadron organized under the 1-25 Stryker Brigade Combat Team. SPC Joshua Yuse patrolled with his team and their supported units across a broad sector of western Nineveh Province. While executing psychological operations in support of Iraq's first free elections, Yuse was wounded in a gunfight at Tal 'Afar Castle 17 January, 2005 and evacuated. This article, written by his team sergeant on the day of the incident, is the story of SPC Yuse's last operation in Iraq.

He's young enough to be my son. Annoying enough, too.

When I beat on his hooch door this morning to get him up for a mission, he was his typical floppy-jointed, addle-headed, eye-rolling self. It was pouring down rain, I was standing out in it wearing PT shorts and a raincoat, and I had no patience: "Get up, time to move. You're goin' down with Apache."

Long groan – but he knew what the mission was since last night.

"Quit your bitchin', Yuse," I told him. "You're lucky as Hell. You get to hang out at the castle, and I have to go ride the hatch in this shit."

Yuse was going downtown to broadcast over the LRAD – i.e. "Long Range Acoustical Device," a gizmo originally designed to warn boaters away from the exclusion zone surrounding naval vessels – while I was going to charge around town in one of Charger Troop's Stryker armored vehicles, broadcasting pro-election messages, pre-recorded in Arabic, from a man-portable loudspeaker system.

"Yeah . . . I guess," he said, squinting and rubbing the back of his head, sullen as a teenager – which, at 21, he practically is.

"Be at the office no later than zero-seven-thirty," I told him, before throwing on a uniform and four hundred bucks worth of raingear to go there myself.

I was closing in on a peak experience of blood pressure when he slouched through the bunker door at 0729.

"I took the trailer off."

"Oh," I said. "How we doin' on fuel?"

"I filled it last night."

## Good To Go

"Alright, let's get your pack together."

"I already got it, sergeant – it's ready to go."

"Damn, Yuse. I hardly know you!"

Goofy grin from him: "I do what I can, sar'nt."

And so I dropped him down at Apache's hangar, ran to the DFAC (Dining Facility, i.e. mess hall) to pick him up a box breakfast, and presently, off he went into Tall 'Afar.

But I never made it out on my mission today. After I put together my briefing memo on new PSYOP (Psychological Operations, the branch of the army that communicates on behalf of the supported commander) products for the squadron commander and walked it over to the TOC (Tactical Operations Center) I ran straight into the battle captain.

## Shot Up

He said, "Oh. It's good you're here. Yuse's your guy, right? We got a report he was shot in the neck..."

"WHAT?"

". . . but apparently he was wounded in the hand. A fragment hit him in the chin, and it bled all over, and they thought he had a neck wound."

"IDF (Indirect Fire, i.e. mortars [likely] or artillery [not so likely] or SAF (Small Arms Fire))"



*PSYOP troop with a .50? You bet: sometimes you have to make them listen. Yuse gets some alternate training on one of Apache 1/5 Infantry's Barretts at the FOB Sykes range.*

"We don't know yet."

"Are they bringing him in now?"

"We don't know yet."

Everything takes too long, and the cavalry's axiom is true: the first report is always WRONG. And so I grabbed my troop data notes, dropped off my memo for the SCO (Squadron Commanding Officer, a lieutenant colonel billet. I didn't get along well with ours) and CPT Murphy and I settled the report.

I dropped by Charger Troop to beg off my day mission, then I went to the aid station to wait. Everything takes too long, and Murphy's Law (no relation) never fails us: Yuse couldn't be evac'd immediately due to continuing contact, which required Apache's available combat power to stay on-site and fight. Then, after Apache's company commander personally rolled his own vehicle out to the castle and picked up my soldier, they hit an IED on the return trip.

Everything takes too long. It took twenty (20!) minutes for Apache Six-Six to move from the ECP (Entry Control Point) across the base to the aid station, because a convoy of civilian fuel tankers was plugging up the roads all over the FOB. Bureaucracy is everywhere; logistics govern every transaction of our lives.

### **Good to Hurt: Means You're Alive**

When Stryker A66 finally rolled into the aid station lot and dropped ramp, my kid soldier was sitting inside, holding up a bloody bulb of gauze the size of his head. He looked mighty uncomfortable.

The first words out of his mouth were, "I'm alright, sergeant."

It seems that Yuse was running the LRAD when the castle came under fire, as it usually does when that bullet magnet is in operation. He put down his DVR (Digital Voice Recorder: invaluable little tool for PSYOP and a good reason to mooch lots of batteries from the Air Force, who always had them and were good to us)/MP3, picked up his rifle, and took up a security position along the battlements. When the sniper found him, the neck-aimed bullet hit him in his forward hand, bounced off his rifle and dug into his armored vest with a heavyweight punch. A fragment of the bullet jacket flew up and cut his chin to the bone. Infantry and commo soldiers gave him buddy aid. They said he wheezed pretty hard. They said he stayed alert and responsive.

They said he never complained.

What Yuse did do, after he was shot: he trained up a commo sergeant on how to run the LRAD, so that while he

waited for evac, he could keep his mission going. He secured, or caused to be secured, all of his sensitive items and PSYOP equipment. He marveled at the bullet they dug out of his vest. He told everybody not to worry about him, and reminded them to keep their heads down.

Everything takes too long. At the aid station, one x-ray salvo wasn't enough; they had to go two rounds with that. The shaky-handed lab tech who tried to start Yuse's IV failed five times on his right arm before someone else took it away and plugged it in properly, upstream of his bullet-riddled left paw.

### **Hope It's Not Wasted**

Through all that, nothing but some wincing and the occasional, "Oww."

And this comment: "I'll tell you one thing. These elections better work. They better get democracy, and freedom, and their rights, and hot chicks in tight jeans.

"I hope I didn't take this bullet for nothing."

And so, although everything seemed like it was happening in slow-mo, Specialist Joshua Yuse was treated, given a bit of morphine, and presently evac'd by a UH60 Blackhawk helo.

I made sure he had his IBA (Interceptor Body Armor) with the souvenir slug in one pocket, helmet, coat and the bloody DCU (Desert Camouflage Uniform) blouse with his name on it. They can wash it out at the hospital. They do it all the time.

I held onto his weapon, which caught the bullet as it exited through the meat of Yuse's left thumb. That weapon is NMC (non-mission capable) and irreparable – it won't ever cycle again without the bottom half of it being replaced. Later, I would have to strip rounds out one by one, and crush the magazine with pliers before I could remove it. I pray my driver's left hand will recover better than his rifle.

Then I stood and watched him lift off, and saluted him in my way. I doubt he noticed. He was trying not to drop his IV bag, which sounds like a simple trick until you try it while juiced to the gills on morphine and battling the shaky shock of adrenaline withdrawal.

### **Another Finest Generation**

I'll miss Yuse here, and not just for the work he does, which is plenty if I remind him often enough. I'll miss him pulling dumb stunts, working so hard at not working that it exhausts him just to think about it, starting to do pushups just because I gave him a hard look, teaching me how to play Yahtzee (then beating the crap out of me), and schooling me



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at ping-pong until he gets impatient and starts hitting the ball too hard to spin it down onto the table.

He's a near-total dingbat with no sense of planning who still manages to get things done; a lazy sloth who works like a sled dog. A good kid with bad manners; a graceful athlete who trips over his own size twelves. This is the overgrown boy I have to kick out of the rack every morning, remind him to check the oil, bring his gloves on mission, and shower periodically.

Mostly, he's just too much of a goofy kid for me to have expected him to take this like a man.

Yuse doesn't want to be deployed to Iraq. He wants to chase women around Seattle, and go to college and find out what he wants to be. He wants to play video games, drink some beer, and buy a Mustang.

Guys my age are supposed to gripe about how kids today are letting the world go to Hell in a hand basket, how there aren't any standards for behavior anymore - after all, we've taken such good care of the place. It's not like we're passing along a turd and expecting them to polish it . . . right? Maybe it's because guys my age usually work with guys my age. Guys Yuse's age are just parts for the big machine in civilian life: laborers, clerks, apprentices. Yuse went from busboy to combat soldier. Now he's WIA, and he doesn't even have the good sense to snivel about it.

He was subsequently evacuated to 67th

CSH (Combat Support Hospital) for surgery, then on to Landstuhl. As they loaded him onto the C130, he was fretting about letting down my team and our detachment by flying out to Germany.

I don't want to hear any more whinging over the passing of "The Greatest Generation." For God's sake, open your eyes: ain't no generation better than his.

Specialist Yuse didn't take it like a man. He took it like his brothers across the generations, and earned his flagon of mead at Valhalla or at least his schooner of Bud at the local VFW.

He took it like a soldier. ✖

*SPC Yuse made an excellent recovery. Occupational rehabilitation helped him regain sufficient use of his left hand that he was able successfully to complete Air Assault training in November, 2005. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 19 November 2005. The following day, he was presented with the Purple Heart Medal, Army Commendation Medal with "Valor" device, and Combat Action Badge for his actions in Iraq, by Seventh PSYOP Group Commander COL Gary Medvigi. Following their tour, TPT 1291 was relieved by a full 16-soldier tactical PSYOP detachment.*

*"Purple Hearted" was first published in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, and subsequently picked up by Stryker News (www.strykernews.com).*



*PSYOP Specialist Yuse pre-packs product in Tactical Psyop Team 1291's bunker office at FOB Sykes.*

Imagine throwing a bare knuckle punch that can...

# "TAKE HIS HEAD RIGHT OFF!"

## Introducing: The Secrets of Irish Bare-Knuckle Boxing

In days gone by REAL men fought bare-handed. And they were unafraid to do so because they knew how to pulverize an opponent (or a street thug) with thunderous sledge-hammer blows without breaking their own hands.

Moreover, they knew how to throw the nastiest, dirtiest shots in the ring (as well as outside of it) and how to disguise the techniques so well they were virtually invisible to judges, referees or onlookers.

### The Irish bare-knuckle brawlers ruled the world of fighting throughout the 1800's and early 1900's

The great John L. Sullivan had more fights in bars and back alleys than he ever had in the ring. In fact, some historians claim he had a bare-knuckle fight almost daily.

The Irish bare-knuckle boxers knew every nasty trick in the book. They fought dirty; they knew how to take the enemy's head off without batting an eye.

### Not only that, but these Irish bare-knuckle brawlers were so crafty that they also knew how to make the unskilled brute break his own hands whenever he threw a punch.

I'm telling you right now, once you're armed with the brutal technologies of the Irish bare-knuckle brawler, any self-defence situation you ever have will be over in no time flat. If the fight goes longer than 10 or 15 seconds - you did something very, very wrong.

### These formerly "lost" secrets of bare-knuckle prize fighters are easy to learn.

You won't even have to think about it. If someone comes looking for trouble when you're walking with your girl, you could pop him one time and drop him without breaking a sweat or having your pulse go up a single beat.

The Irish bare-knuckle fighting secrets are so simple and easy to learn you'll be stunned. Pull up a chair in front of your television, plop my DVD's in your player, sit back and be absolutely enthralled.

### First Thing You're Going to Do is Laugh

You'll laugh because of how simple yet brutal each technique is.

Second thing you're going to do is understand that YOU can easily apply these invisible yet totally deliberate strikes in virtually any situation. In a self-defence situation, you'll be able to hit someone in a pulverizing manner and immediately end the problem.

Hi, my name's Dermot McGrath. I've been studying Irish Bare Knuckle fighting since I was a young boy, and although I look like the least likely guy to drive someone's head clean off his body with a single blow, I can assure you that I know how to take care of myself.

Number one, I'm the proud owner of the largest martial arts/fighting school in all of Ireland. I have well over 300 students who train with me in the city of Limerick.

My students learn how to nail all those no good punks out there with invincible strikes that no one ever sees coming. They know how to inflict serious damage very, very fast. They know that "Mr. Nice Guy" is fine for polite discourse, but no way to win a fight against someone with bad intentions.

In addition to having the largest school in all of Ireland, I am the man who introduced Mixed Martial Arts over here several years ago when I ran the first Irish Vale Tudo Open. Three of my students entered that competition - and all of them won national titles.

I've been seriously involved in martial arts and boxing for over 18 years. Not only that but I was one of the pioneers who brought submission fighting to Ireland. So believe me, I've seen fighting, I've taught fighting and I've done it myself.

As for the use of Irish bare-knuckle technologies, I don't just teach "how to" on the subject. On occasion

I've had to use my knowledge to put some punk in his place.

### The first time I used one of these Irish bare-knuckle techniques was about 10 years ago, when I had a fight during a sparring session with some other clubs in Dublin

I was moving and picking off my heavier, slower opponent with jabs that he couldn't see coming. The guy had no idea of the "art" of boxing I was using and I was jabbing him at will so he must have felt pretty stupid.

### The next thing I know he's firing full power clubbing punches and I'm covering up on the ropes

The referee yells "break" and the guy keeps punching. The referee physically grabs him from behind and drags him off me.

As I was in sparring mode and was much younger and nicer then - I didn't immediately react the way I would today. So when the fight restarted and the same thing happened, I started to wise up right quick.

### When he came at me I decided to give this "waste of oxygen" something to remember me by when he looked in the mirror.

As he charged forward I met him with all my weight behind a modified dirty right jab. All I can tell you here is I didn't hit him with my knuckles because I had big 16-ounce gloves on. Yet, because the Irish bare-knuckle strategies can be adapted to the ring, with or without gloves, the result was the same. The genius rammed his nose into my strike and his face went one way while his nose took a detour towards his right ear.

I quickly moved out of the way faster than I have ever moved in my life. It wasn't so much the caveman swings he was still trying to throw as the spraying blood I wanted to avoid. God knows what germs would be floating around in his veins. Some of them might even have been communicable to humans. So the ref did us both a favor when he dragged him back to his corner and stopped the session.

The point of this story is that I was much younger then and much more inexperienced. It was the first time I used one of these tactics and it worked perfectly. Not only that but I was much smaller than my opponent. Yet, just one pop and I smashed the so-called bigger, stronger guy like a pumpkin.

Now, I could go on and on with story after story about how I've used these brutal tactics in self-defence situations. I can also tell you about all the punks my students have had to defend themselves against with simple, easy-to-learn, yet totally devastating blows that I taught them... including but not limited to the time one of my students was attacked with a knife in Hamburg, Germany. As soon as the guy pulled the knife he got clunked with what looked like an overhand right. The knife flew out of his hand, then he crumpled to the concrete like the wicked witch of the west.

Having the **Irish Bare-Knuckle Boxing Secrets** is the closest thing to carrying a good luck charm with you every where you go. Regardless of your previous level of training, you can learn how to hit hard, hit fast and drop people in their tracks. I'll show you how on my set of 2 DVD's.

### Now, so you know what you'll be getting in this series, take a look at the following self-defence and physical fitness highlights:

- How to smash someone's teeth in with a slight variation of a jab!
- How a quick and dirty head butt can immediately end a fight!
- How to make someone's eyes water so he can't defend against or see your next devastating blow!
- How to hit someone in the soft places so you never hurt your hand!
- How to make someone miss all the soft targets on your body; he'll end up breaking his hands



Irish fighter Dermot McGrath.

- when he hits the wrong spots!
- The sweet science of disguising all your punches so no one ever sees them coming!
- Hit someone so hard that he'll be punch drunk a couple days later!
- The places on the head to hit and the places to avoid hitting!
- How to deliver a knockout shot to the solar plexus!
- How to crack someone with a liver shot that'll have him doubled over in agony and unable to continue bother you any longer!
- How to conserve your energy with powerful shots that get the job done quick!
- How to fight from a clinch... including secrets of "invisible" low blows!
- How to defend yourself on the ground if the fight goes there!
- Ways to combine punches with throws!
- The right way to use your elbows... guaranteed to knock an assailant right out!
- How to break free from a headlock and clobber your opponent in seconds!
- How to punch so hard that you break ribs!
- Unreal way to make your enemy break his own ankle when he attacks!
- And much, much more...

In addition to all the devastating street fight terminating blows you're going to learn in this 2 DVD set, I'm also going to send you **The Dirty Dozen** - a special report containing 12 exercises that will get you into incredible bare-knuckle fighting shape super fast. These are the same 12 exercises I teach my hard-core students in the same.

The total amount for this 2 DVD set is currently at a shocking and embarrassingly low amount. After all, I'm giving you my hard-won knowledge over the past 18 years. I didn't learn what I know for nothing. I paid a heavy price, physically and financially. It would be no exaggeration if I told you I've spent tens of thousands of dollars as well as 10,000 hours acquiring my mastery.

### What's more, those I've taught these secrets to have easily defended themselves on the street. They never walk in fear.

When you think about how much money people have wasted learning so-called "fighting" secrets that only work in a dojo (not the real world), I don't think I'd be off-base to charge \$500.00 for this 2 DVD set. But I'm not going to do that, even though I probably should.

So here's the deal: This incredible set of DVD's on **Irish Bare-Knuckle Boxing** are NOW available at half price. You can get these secrets for the ridiculously low \$99 plus \$6 S&H U.S. (\$12 foreign). But only if you place your order NOW and make sure you get in while the getting is good.

Yes, Please Send Me Irish Bare-Knuckle Boxing for only \$99 plus \$6 S&H (\$12 foreign S&H), and I will also receive **The Dirty Dozen** - a special report containing 12 exercises that will get you into incredible bare-knuckle fighting shape super fast.

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Canadian trooper pauses to scan the area. His rifle mounts a night scope and laser target designator for when the sun sets on the patrol.

way or fence line.

As we proceed, a door slams, startling us, and we watch as two men move off down the alley for some unknown destination. We change direction and come into a large open area. We spread out and continually watch our arcs of fire, scanning left to right then right to left, far, middle and near, the rooftops and the fence lines. A soldier stumbles in a pothole and almost goes down but regains his balance. Our senses are heightened, the patrol is alert. We hear voices as we approach another intersection and see a faint light ahead. We pass by a small kiosk, built into the side of a mud wall, with two locals counting that day's receipts. They look up briefly as we pass and then return to their business, ignoring us. Bicycles with friction lights mounted to the tires go by, their bells ringing to let us know they're

there. We watch, not really trusting.

We proceed down another narrow alleyway in loose file and come to an open area surrounded by dilapidated buildings. Alternately on each side of the path, with our backs against the walls and fences, we move on, covering each other with interlocking arcs of fire, just in case. We halt for another nav check and the Patrol Commander radios in a Situation Report, to HQ. The Patrol Commander then gives directions to the lead man and we move off and cross the dark open area ahead of us. I lower my MNVG and night becomes an eerie green day. People are walking this way and that, oblivious to us. I activate my IR pointer, which is only visible through my MNVG, and see that wherever the IR beam strikes, my rifle barrel points. It is correctly zeroed and ready for action if required. There is no real tension

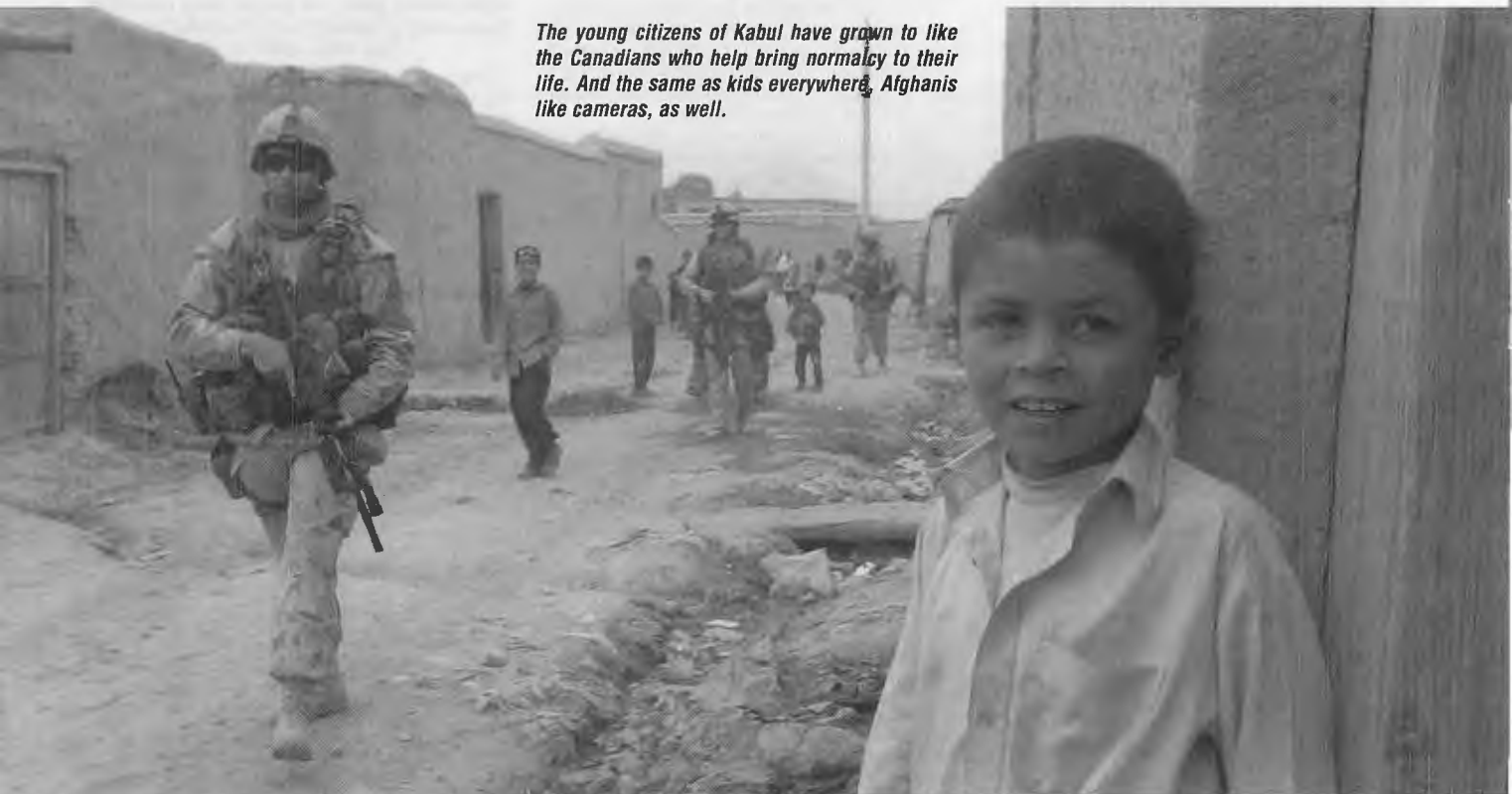
— only a sense of mission.

We come to a paved road and turn right. I check my watch and see that we've been on the move for 90 minutes and we're now heading west, back toward Camp Julien. Vehicle traffic is heavier as we straddle either side of the road in loose file and move toward camp and a much-needed shower. Sweat has soaked through our clothes though the pace had been slow. It now picks up a bit and the Patrol Commander tells the lead man to slow down as we have an old man along with us. He is, of course, jokingly referring to me.

### A Handful of Thanks

A dog starts barking furiously as we pass a well-lit compound. A guard comes out and says something to the dog and "Salim" to us. The dog's ribs are visible through its dusty coat of black fur. We

*The young citizens of Kabul have grown to like the Canadians who help bring normalcy to their life. And the same as kids everywhere, Afghans like cameras, as well.*



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*Camp Julien is a tent city within a two-klick perimeter, sitting in southern Kabul in the shadow of the old King's palace. (Inset) In its glory days, the palace was indeed fit for a king. When peace gets to be a habit, Julien can be removed, and the palace restored for the people of Kabul.*



come to another junction and turn left and see the bright lights of our camp to our South, less than a kilometre away. We pass by numerous small shops and kiosks that are still open for business; Kids wave at us, local music is playing. An Afghani walks beside me and hands me a piece of fruit. I ask, "What's this?" He replies that "it's sweet, it's good." I thank him and take a bite, savouring the cool taste and moisture. I realize that I'm very thirsty, but as we're almost "home" and I can wait for water. I again hear the sound of prayers coming from some far-off Mosque.

A car drives by and screeches to a halt near the front of the patrol. We raise our weapons and I hear the Patrol 2IC say from the rear, "I signalled him to slow down." The Patrol Commander responds, "That scared the shit out of me. They don't know our hand signals." I move off the road and cover a flank, while the Patrol Commander moves to the vehicle and talks to the driver through the Language Assistant. The vehicle drives off. We relax and lower our weapons. We again begin to move and the Patrol 2IC tells the boys to space it out and watch their arcs as "we aren't

home just yet!"

We pass the once-proud King's Palace, now looking old and sad in the shadows after years of war and bombings. I imagine someone opening up on us from the top floor and mentally war-gamed the battle. We turn right and head toward the Afghan Militia Forces gate. The AMF guards wave us past as we radio in our position to HQ and request permission to close down.

After debriefing us, the Patrol Commander heads off to write his Patrol Report. The Patrol 2iC accounts for all the serialized equipment and I pass on a few words of wisdom to the men, from my own observations. We've covered five kilometres in two hours and honed our patrolling skills in an area of operations where the threat is real. Everyone is back safely with a better appreciation of our training and more experience for the next patrol. Chugging back a litre of water, I head off for a much-needed shower and wonder what tomorrow will bring. We're here on a six-month tour of duty and still have four months to go. The Presidential Elections are just around the corner and hostilities are expected to increase. The intense work-up training we had at home in Edmonton, Alberta, prior to deploying is paying off. The soldiers are primed, our equipment is excellent and we'll be ready for whatever the future holds. ✕

*By WO Tracy Sapera, 1st Bn, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.*

*Author, center, with other PLI troops and their C8 (similar to M16A2) rifles. Note suppressed rifle, center front.*



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By Dr. Martin Brass

## AMERICA AT WAR

### 1. BANGLADESH

**COURTHOUSE BOMBING**, the first suicide attack, puts government on high alert. Officials warn travelers of risk of terrorist attack against Western interests.



### 2. UNITED STATES

**BLOODTHIRSTY** terrorists recruited to go to Iraq by bin Laden and the murderous Abu Musab Zargawi are considered "minutemen" by Leftist producer Michael Moore and compared with U.S. Revolutionary soldiers by anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan, according to Washington Times' Pentagon reporters Gertz and Scarborough. **TERRORIST MOVEMENTS' LIFESPAN** is 10 years, according to experts: Numbers of volunteers shrink as governments they try to overthrow come out ahead. Surveys find support for Al Qaeda is shrinking. **(Strategypage) U.S. BORDER AGENTS** spar with military-clad, U.S.-trained Mexican Zetas. Armed thugs with Mexican military weapons seize captured dump truck filled with marijuana from U.S. agents. **(CNN) AL QAEDA OPERATIVE**, on FBI terrorist-watch list, captured. **(ABC radio)**



### 3. VENEZUELA

**OIL POWER MOGUL** president Chavez buying friends in his neighborhood. **SHIFTING ALLIANCES** of great concern to U.S. officials, especially strengthening of economic ties with Castro's Cuba.



### 4. COLOMBIA

**ANTI-DRUG TASK FORCE** is established to operate in the region as a joint effort.



### 5. ECUADOR

**GUERRILLAS TRAIN** in Venezuela. Political attaché Gustavo Bastardo arranges for meetings with Equatorial Liberation Army (ELA) rebels and Basque ETA guerillas in Caracas, Ecuadorian agents told the *Miami Herald*.

**6. UNITED KINGDOM** **RUSSIAN SURFACE-TO-AIR-MISSILES**, purchased by U.K., may have fallen into terrorist hands and some may have been smuggled into Iraq. **SPY RECRUITS** promised a "family atmosphere" where "staff benefit from modern air-conditioned offices on the banks of the Thames with good public transport access to the rest of London and beyond. Facilities include squash and basketball courts, a gym, a restaurant, coffee lounge and bar." *(Telegraph)*

**7. WESTERN EUROPE** **HUSSEIN'S HENCHEMEN** found, hiding out from war crimes prosecution, as "war refugees" in Western Europe. Iraqi "war refugees" were **rehabilitated**, and giving a parking spot for the Mercedes, welfare benefits and a place to live" said Eastern Europe Review. Twenty Million Muslims live in Western Europe.

**8. ROMANIA** **ELEVEN TERRORIST SUSPECTS** subject to "harsh interrogation" techniques, spirited away before Secretary of State Rice's visit. Outraged Europeans demand answers to allegations that the U.S. has questionable covert prisons in Romania and Poland.

**9. BOSNIA** **RAID ON TERRORIST CELLS** finds weapons, explosives and videotape pledging vengeance for the "brothers" killed fighting Americans in Afghanistan and Iraq. Cache found in an apartment of underground group aiming to blow up the British Embassy in Sarajevo. Islamic radicals train non-Arab 'white al Qaeda' to evade racial profiling used to scan for terrorists. *(Washington Post)*

**10. IRAQ** **ASSASSINATED: TRIBAL SUNNI ARAB BATTAL CHIEF** and three sons, in north Iraq. **APPREHENDED: EIGHT SUNNI TERRORISTS** who had been instructed to kill Saddam's trial judge. **EXPLOSIVES FOR IEDS** killing U.S. troops and Iraqis are flowing in without restriction from Iran. *(Reuters)*

**11. IRAN** **CHECHNYAN WARLORDS** train at the Revolutionary Guards' Imam Ali training camp in Tehran, in weapons and ideological warfare, with hard-line Iranian mullahs at Qom. *(Telegraph)*

**12. PAKISTAN** **CIA PREDATOR UAV** with Hellfire missiles takes out Abu Hamza Kabia, an al Qaeda kingpin.

**13. NEPAL** **MAOISTS** aggressively recruit for their cause.

**14. ERITREA** **WAR IMMINENT? UN PEACEKEEPING** members from the United States, Canada and Europe are expelled from explosive Ethiopian borders. Government banned UN peacekeepers from its airspace over buffer zone on borders.

**15. SOMALIA** **PIRATE HIJACKERS** release a Kenyan freighter hijacked two months ago, after payoff. Ten crew members safe. A Ukrainian vessel and its crew of 22 also released. More than 32 ships have been hijacked along the lawless coast during past nine months, including U.S. luxury liner. Two Arab dhows, three Taiwanese fishing vessels and a Thai-owned ship carrying 14,000 tons of sugar are still held hostage.

Leathernecks hunker down behind former ComBloc PKM machine guns. They liked the gun's weight, would have liked a top rail. PKM Vs. the M240G? The M240G, in spite of the weight.



# Gunsite's Foreign Weapons Class

## Know Thy Enemy... And How To Operate His Weapons (Part One)

Text & Photos by Gary Paul Johnston

In the movie *Charge Up San Juan Hill*, one of the Rough Riders, upon capturing an enemy position, threatened to kill a Spanish soldier unless he showed him how to operate the Maxim machine gun in order to use it against the rest of the Spanish on San Juan Hill.

Although the firearms of all countries essentially worked the same for hundreds of years, the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century saw major changes: In addition to belt-fed machine guns, early examples are the U.S. Model of 1911 and the P08 ("Luger"). During World War II, differences became even more widespread, but the importance of learning how to operate enemy weapons was often overlooked. This left much of the hands-on experience to on-the-job training. Sometimes it came too late.

Familiarizing troops with foreign weapons before battle re-

quires that such weapons be on hand. In the wake of Vietnam one would think that the U.S. Military would have retained boatloads of weapons used against us as a component of basic training, especially since the same weapons are more prolific than ever, but such is not the case. Special operations forces receive training with foreign and enemy weapons, because they often work behind enemy lines, but regular troops do not.

The result is that, although we began hostilities in the Middle East over two decades ago, and are deeply embroiled in a struggle there for the foreseeable future, many of our troops have no idea how an AKM works, much less how to operate it effectively. Training someone else to operate it is simply out of the question, but this is beginning to change.

Long recognizing the need to provide effective foreign



*Gunsite instructor Cory Trapp instructs Marines on the PKM (foreground), the older RPD (center) and the RPK (rear) before they hit the range for some trigger time. Russian-made silver Bear ammo – and lots of it -- was used. Photo: Andrew Blumenthal*

## The Men

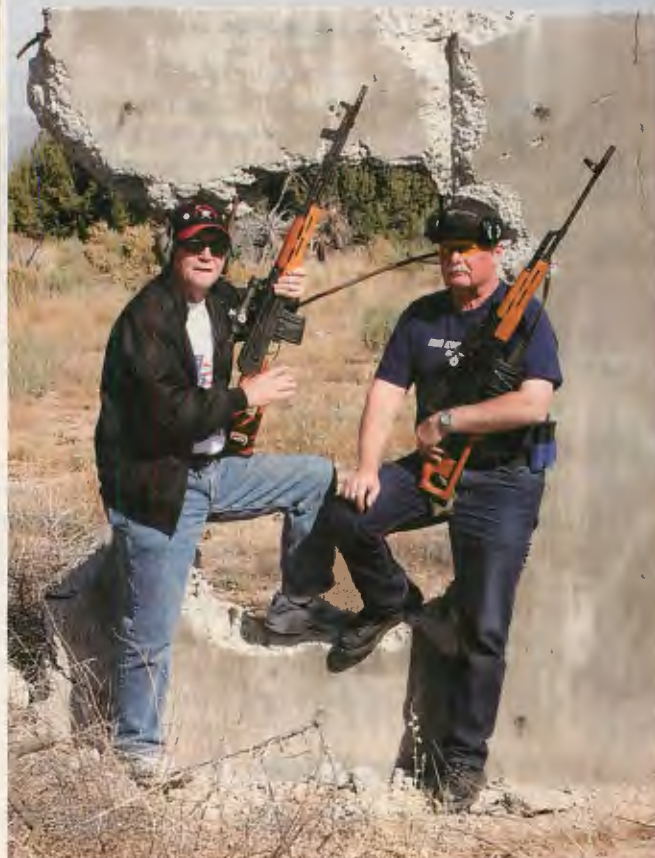
Beginning with 200 of America's finest, United States Marines from Camp Pendleton's 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division received a week of intensive training in Gunsite's new Foreign Weapons Class during the final months of 2005 – prior to their redeployment in early 2006, for many their third time. By a stroke of good fortune, I was there for the first wave, as 25 Marines hit the sands of Arizona about as far away from a beach as they are in Iraq as you read this.

Although the weather's a lot better in Paulden than in the Middle East, the terrain at Gunsite is very similar to the "sand box" and this made things very realistic, especially when running some of the drills the Marines were put through. Every one I spoke with was totally impressed with the training.

One of the requirements of the Major in charge of the unit was that no full-face photos be shown of his men, so you'll see only profiles, or blurred faces in these pages, and no names will be mentioned. Many of these men are married and all have families, and terrorists know no boundaries.

One question I asked was whether the class would be offered to civilian contractors or civilians in general. While this isn't out of the question, Gunsite anticipates an increasing demand by the U.S. Military for this training, and the Military's needs will naturally come first.

*SOF editor/publisher Robert K. Brown, left, and author Gary Paul Johnston pose with a pair of Romanian PSL sniper rifles, the contemporary version of the Russian SVD Dragunov.*



weapons training to U.S. Troops, Gunsite, of Paulden, Arizona, recently took the bull by the horns. Investing thousands of dollars in brand new former ComBloc weapons, Gunsite began developing an extensive training course in how to operate them, and to train others to do so. With Gunsite's long and excellent relationship with the United States Marine Corps, it didn't take long for the mountain to come to Mohammed (political incorrectness intended).





*(top) Diminutive Krinkov variant in 5.45x39 looks like a toy in the hands of this Marine. Troops thought the weapon was fun to shoot, thought it might be OK for certain purposes, but were not enthusiastic about its metal stock. (middle) Marines, some firing from port, some from starboard, got plenty of range time on the AKM – the ubiquitous weapon in the Middle East and Third world. (bottom) Marine with AKM and Glock pistol runs the “scrambler.” Realistic training entails transitioning from rifle to pistol, and Glock were carried as they are now the most widely issued to Iraqi police and military forces.*

## The Weapons

Manufactured largely in Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria, the weapons provided for the training were almost exclusively of Russian design, most of which have been in continuous service around the world for nearly a half-century. They included the following:

### The 7.62x39mm AKM Rifle

A modernized version of the AK-47, the AKM needs little introduction to most. Its main difference from the AK-47 is that it uses a stamped sheet metal receiver rather than a machined one. The AKM fires the same 7.62x39mm (M43) cartridge, uses the same long stroke gas piston and the same 30-round magazine or 75-round drum. Variations of the AKM can also be found in the newer 5.45x39mm. Each Marine was issued a semi-automatic AKM for the week of training with several selective fire models also used for training. Their full-auto rate of fire is about 700 rounds per minute.

### The selective fire 7.62x39mm RPK Light Machinegun (LMG)

A long barrel version of the AKM, the RPK is also equipped with a bipod and is the standard squad automatic weapon (SAW) of most countries that issue the AKM or AK-47. The RPK sometimes has a heavier butt stock than the AKM and uses the same magazines. Like the AKM, the RPK can also be found in 5.45x39mm and it has the same rate of fire as the AKM. Both the AKM and RPK have an optical sight base on the left side of the receiver.

### The selective fire 5.45x39mm “Krinkov” Carbines

Amounting to a CQB version of the AKM, the “Krinkov” has a barrel only 8 inches long with a special combination muzzle brake/flash hider. The “Krinkov” also comes with a skeletonized folding stock. It is normally found in 5.45x39mm, but the Krinkov also exists in 7.62x39mm. The “Krinkov” fires at a rate of 800 to 900 RPM and is most effective in urban or other close range combat.

### 7.62x54Rmm PSL Sniper Rifle

The Romanian version of the Soviet SVD Dragunov, the PSL uses a stamped receiver along with some other changes, but has all the features of the SVD and was chosen for the class because no SVD's were available. The standard sniper rifle of ComBlok countries since the Vietnam Era, the SVD is based on the AK system, but in a larger format to accommodate the longer and more powerful 7.62x54mmR (rimmed) cartridge, which has been the Russian standard for the past century. Firing by semi-automatic only, the SVD (and PSL) has both open sights on its barrel and an optical sight base on the left side of the receiver similar to that on the AKM and RPK. This base accepts a standard optical sight or a night vision scope. A skeletonized, fixed, wooden butt stock is standard as is a 10-round box magazine. The PSL has is accurate to 1,000 meters.

### The 7.62x39mm RPD LMG

The predecessor to the RPK, the full automatic only RPD is also operated by long stroke gas piston and fires the same 7.62x39mm cartridge from an open bolt using a non-disintegrating linked belt. This belt holds 100 rounds of ammunition and is normally housed in a round drum-like can that attaches to the gun. The feed system is much like that used in the M60 and M240 where the rounds are pushed through the link from back to front and into the chamber. The RPD is equipped with a bipod, but does not have an optical sight base, and fires at a rate of 700 RPM. Rather than a rotating AK style bolt, the RPD uses dual slide-locking flaps. While it has largely been replaced with the lighter, less expensive RPK, it is still encountered throughout the Middle East.

### The 7.62x54Rmm PKM LMG

Firing the same long range 7.62x54(R)mm round as the SVD Dragunov, the

*Continued on page 54*



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# STEEL CURTAIN

## Marines Drop 'Steel Curtain' on Iraq-Syria Border Towns

Text & Photos by Cpl. Micah Snead

**HUSAYBAH, Iraq (20 Nov. 2005)** — The Marines of 3rd Platoon, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, recently pushed through buildings, streets and the constant threat of improvised explosive devices and enemy attacks to bring stability and security to two Iraq border towns in western Al Anbar province.

The platoon took part in Operation Al Hajip Elfulathi (Steel Curtain), along with more than 2,000 Marines, Sailors and Soldiers from Regimental Combat Team 2 and 1,000 Iraqi Army Soldiers. The Marines pushed through the Euphrates River Valley cities of Husaybah and Karabilah Nov. 5 through 11.

"Our mission (was) to clear and search everything we came across," said 2nd Lt. William J. Milana, 3rd Platoon commander. "We moved in coordination with every other unit through the cities and conducted detailed searches as we went."

The goal of the operation is to restore security along Iraq's border with Syria and to destroy the Al Qaeda in Iraq network operating in the region. Before pushing into Husaybah, Marines occupied battle positions at Camp Gannon, located between the city and the border, and in the river valley north of the city. After weeks of waiting and watching, the Marines



*Marines from Company L, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, provide security while members of their platoon search and clear a building during Operation Steel Curtain, 5 Nov., in Husaybah, Iraq.*

finally had a chance to take the fight to the enemy.

"Up until this point, we haven't been able to go into the city," said Lance Cpl. Travis W. Garrett, a 3rd Platoon rifleman. "This is our chance to pay back the people who've been taking shots at us whenever they get a chance. Now, they won't be able to shoot and run."

With gunfire, mortar blasts and detonations ringing out across the city, the platoon swept through by day and rested at night. In addition to being the platoon's first combat operation since clearing the city of Sadah in October, Steel Curtain was an opportunity to get to know their Iraqi counterparts. A four-man fire team of Iraqi Army soldiers was attached to each squad in the platoon and it didn't take long for the Marines and Iraqis to bond.

"I was very impressed with them personally and professionally," said Sgt. Sean T. Selman, a rifleman and squad leader. "We initially conducted a hand-and-arm signal class

to make sure they were on the same page with us, but they were ahead of the game. They knew our procedures for movements, searching and clearing and were just as eager as we were to fight the enemy.

"Personally, it was encouraging because I think our greatest key to success will be the Iraqi people taking defense of their country into their own hands. As that happens more and more, our job will become much less difficult."

By Nov. 9, the joint force cleared all of Husaybah and began preparations for a permanent security presence inside. The platoon uncovered several weapons caches and seized buildings used by insurgents to target Camp Gannon.

Beginning Nov. 10, the platoon and all of Company L moved into the river valley north of the cities and conducted searches for Al Qaeda in Iraq members who may have fled.

The company then moved to eastern Karabilah and began clear and hold operations there.

Deadly IEDs and

*Marines and Iraqi Army Soldiers talk to Iraqi civilians outside Husaybah, Iraq,*



car bombs littered the streets of Karabilah as the Marines pushed into the city. On the night of Nov. 10, tragedy struck the platoon when Lance Cpl. Daniel Swaim was killed by a pressure plate-triggered IED hidden in a narrow alley. The explosion also injured an Iraqi soldier, one of the platoon's Navy corpsmen and two other Marines.

"I would rather face a firefight with the enemy all day and all night than have to deal with IEDs," Selman said. "It's the worst enemy in the world because you can't fight it back. All we can do is deny this region to the people who would plant them here. These are people who don't care if what they do kills an American or an Iraqi, they are only interested in chaos."

The platoon faced the task of carrying on the operation without Swaim the next day.

"The enemy wants us to quit and this is the only way they can come up with to hurt us," Capt. Richard H. Pitchford, Company L commander, told the platoon the next morning. "Lance Cpl. Swaim would have wanted us to carry on. He will be missed, but the best way to remember him is to keep taking the fight to the enemy."

The platoon uncovered more IEDs as they moved deeper into the city and, on Nov. 11, another blast injured more

Marines from Company L, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, engage in a rooftop firefight.



Marines. The platoon responded to the adversity they faced with courage and professionalism.

"They really showed what they were made of when things got bad," said Staff Sgt. Antonio O. Foster, 3rd Platoon's platoon sergeant. "They didn't lose their heads as soon as someone got hurt. Marines and corpsmen were assisting casualties, other Marines posted security without

having to be told to, everything they were supposed to do. You always prepare for these moments, but never want them to happen. Times like these are when you find out what kind of Marines you really have."

The Marines moved back to Camp Gannon, 12 Nov., to rest and refit before assuming security positions in and around Husaybah and Karabilah. While the intensity of the operation washed off of them and they came out of their worn socks and uniforms, the next battle was already present in their minds.

"At a time like this, you're already thinking about what's next," said Lance Cpl. Eric A. Thompson, a 3rd Platoon rifleman and fire team leader. "Everyone in this platoon is set on killing the guys who want to hurt us. This is a break, but it's really just time to get ready to go back out." ✕

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# **I Got Into The Best Shape of My Life in Record Time... You Can, Too”**

By Matt Furey

Best-selling author of *Combat Conditioning*

I was the total skeptic. Not only had I lifted weights and run long distance for years, but I had major success under my belt, including a world kung fu championship and a national collegiate wrestling title.

So I just didn't want to believe what Karl, a 76-year old man told me about exercising WITHOUT weights... and WITHOUT long-distance running.

Most importantly, I didn't want to hear that a good exercise program only took a few minutes. Hate to admit it, but I was addicted to the “hard work or nothing” mentality and refused to believe you could get into the best shape of your life by doing LESS... not more.

Let me tell you, when I looked at this so-called “old man's” physique and watched him demonstrate his exercises, I could not look the other way. I had to check them out for myself, even if it meant saying, “Okay, I've wasted a lot of time doing it the wrong way.”

### **What I discovered shocked me from head to toe!**

Before I met Karl I THOUGHT I was strong, I thought I was tough. But the exercises he gave me exploited every weakness that weights and running could not cover, in a matter of minutes, I knew Karl “had me.”

So I gave up the weights and began a routine of bodyweight calisthenics called *Combat Conditioning*. After all, when a man of 76 can do things that a 36-year old cannot do, that tells you that “Yes, there's gold in them there hills.”

The exercises I learned had such a profound and dramatic effect on me, that for six years I have been introducing men and women of all ages and of all backgrounds to this extraordinary program – and the results are shocking, awe-inspiring and PROOF that this system works, and works FAST.

### **Who is Combat Conditioning for?**

**It's for** the hard-working man or woman who often finds it difficult to squeeze in a quick workout.

**It's for** the traveling executive who sleeps in hotel rooms more than at home.

**It's for** those who have trained their whole lives on weights.

**It's for** athletes, martial artists and the military.

And .. **IT'S FOR** the man or woman who hasn't done a lick of exercise in decades.

### **Even One Minute a Day Brings Results!**

Unlike other exercise program where you are told you MUST do 30 minutes of cardio per day and an hour of weights, to get results, *Combat Conditioning* is totally different. 15 minutes is all it takes to whoop the hard-core trainee. But for the total beginner, he or she can get results starting with ONLY one minute a day. And no, this is not a joke.

### **Time is not the issue!**



### **Matt Furey**

won a national collegiate wrestling title in 1985 and a world shuai-chiao kung fu championship in 1997. Furey has a knack for taking the average and ordinary person and transforming him with his powerful programs. Furey was inducted into the Edinboro University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998 and spends much time each year traveling

throughout the world, searching for the very best information available to his world-wide audience. His website, [www.mattfurey.com](http://www.mattfurey.com), is one of the finest in the world, giving valuable information that changes lives.

Forget all those workouts that take all day. With *Combat Conditioning*, all that's required is your own body and a tiny “get started NOW” decision to DO a little something each day.

The key to your success is in the magical, transformative power of these exercises – not in your belief system about hard work. For many people, just one rep is all they can do at first, and they're shaking like a leaf on a windy day in Chicago. And so, that's all that person should do at first. Even if you think you're not doing enough – the exercises work their magic anyway. Your body has it's own intelligence and will work FOR YOU if you'll simply get out of the way and let it.

When you do, pretty soon you'll be the type of person who can do 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 or 128 repetitions and feel no fatigue. Instead of tiredness you'll feel exhilaration and ENERGY. You're building strength and endurance from the INSIDE-OUT. And believe me, once you can do more than a few reps, inches of unsightly fat and pounds of excess flab will fly off your body at break-neck speed.

### **New Results from Forgotten Exercises**

Are the exercises in *Combat Conditioning* NEW? Well, not really. They go back about 5,000 years – but for the most part, they got lost in the shuffle when weights, gadgets and gyms came around. So although they aren't NEW, they're “New to YOU!”

Before I learned these exercises, I read about the Great Gama of India, a wrestler who followed this program and was unbeaten in 5,000 matches. I also read that the legendary Bruce Lee did these exercises, too. And we all know about Lee's incredible martial arts skills. Then there was the All-Pro NFL running back, Hershell Walker, who did bodyweight exercises each day. The list goes on and on. The key is in having a proven program with a track record, and *Combat Conditioning* is just that.

### **Puts You into the Old Clothes You Dream of Wearing Again!**

The main reason why *Combat Conditioning* works is because it targets all the weak links in your body. And when all those weak links are given a little attention, your entire body gets stronger, faster, more powerful and more energetic. Spend time each day doing a few functional exercises and the payoff is HUGE.

You get functional strength, endurance and flexibility – all at the same time. Not to mention seeing the excess inches flying off your body, making it easy for you to fit into the clothes you dream of wearing again. Stop dreaming. Start DOING. And get results.

### **12 Ways Combat Conditioning Will Change Your Life!**

Follow this program and your body is going to change big time. In fact, I've made a list of 12 of the most powerful benefits that hundreds of thousands of others all over the world have gotten from the *Combat Conditioning* program. Let's take a look:

1. Cranks up your metabolism so you burn excess body fat a lot, lot faster. This means fitting into the clothes you WANT to wear.
2. Packs attractive and healthy functional muscles (not grotesque) onto your entire body
3. Simultaneously doubles your strength and flexibility – and does so without needing separate workouts for each.
4. Quadruples your endurance inside of 30 days. Never get tired again.
5. Within a couple weeks, it often eliminates chronic back and shoulder pain from years of heavy squats, deadlifts and bench pressing – or other forms of abuse.
6. Sleep like a log. Eight hours of deep sleep is no longer a goal. It's automatic. As soon as you hit the rack you're out like a light.
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*Sgt. Chris Dellerba, from 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, discusses voting security with an Iraqi Soldier in Bayji. National elections are Dec. 15. This photo appeared on www.army.mil*



few of us gathered in the day room of my part of the duplex to watch DVD movies. Several men from my office were present, along with a couple from another office working in our Palace. Our women co-workers – military and civilian – were in two houses about 30-40 yards down the street.

At about 2057 hours, while we were deep into the movie *The Professional*, a 1990's movie starring Jean Reno, one of the guys suddenly jumped up and raced to the back door, facing the perimeter wall. As soon as he threw the door open, we all heard what triggered his rush: the sound of gunfire. Lots of it.

We are used to hearing one or two shots every now and then, sometimes with a five-or ten-round burst of full-auto fire from one of the guard tower machine guns in response to someone shooting at the towers.

### Surround-Sound With Tracers

This was different. Very different. The air was suddenly filled with an immense amount of noise from continuous machine gun fire – so heavy that individual rounds could not be

distinguished. We raced outside and all we could see, lighting up the darkness from just outside the wall, were hundreds, even thousands of rounds filling the black sky with brilliant, angry red lines reaching everywhere. I have seen the attack videos from Abu Ghraib, and this was worse in volume of fire – much worse.

“This is what it is like!” I told my office mates. I am the “old veteran” to them, having served in so many other wars. They have not seen heavy combat, just the shots now and then around the wall.

No one said anything else about what to do. Each raced back to his own room – I did not know nor care what they were doing. All I wanted to do was grab my gear and get prepared for the enemy coming over that wall so close.

It took time to throw on my 40 pounds of gear: bullet proof vest with armored



*Spc. Louie O. Bedea, from Company B, 4th Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 2nd Marine Division, takes cover during a counterinsurgency operation near Rawah, Iraq. This photo appeared on www.army.mil.*

*Spc. James Browning and fellow Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, watch over the town of Adwar, Iraq, before beginning a raid. (below) Sgt. Chris Schroeder, from 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, provides security for Iraqi contractors who are setting up a polling station near Bayji for the Dec. 15 national elections. These photos appeared on [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)*



plates inside (guaranteed to stop AK-47 rounds – if they managed to hit the plates instead of the spaces between), chest pack of ammo magazine carriers, with seven magazines holding 30 rounds per magazine for a total of 210 rounds. My Beretta pistol was strapped to my leg with its extra three magazines, for another 45 rounds. My Randall knife was in front of it, as was my Surefire flashlight, bright for pinpointing targets at night. I also grabbed a special tactical flashlight that virtually blinds someone at night, and reaches for a long distance. My final, and most important grab was my M4 carbine. I had just checked one out a week before, fearing attack during the elections. This is the M16 modified into a shorter weapon, more useful in the SUV I drive around in.

During the time I was putting on the combat gear, all I could hear was the deafening roar of automatic fire from every direction. The lights in the house were switched off by me, but I could easily see by the light of the tracers arcing everywhere. Flares were descending to light up the areas as well. It only took a couple of minutes, but it felt like hours – when one needs the gear, one needs it now! My gear, including the pistol and



holster, is already attached such that when I put my pants on, the pistol is already on with them. The bullet-proof vest has the ammo on it.

I was trembling with excitement – partly fear, partly eagerness, and mostly adrenaline. I had not seen such combat

since Vietnam some decades ago. I knew what to do and knew I was going to do well, but was still afraid, knowing the odds of getting hurt or killed just went up enormously, especially if the enemy was coming over the wall – there wasn't much between him and the targets he





Paratroopers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, take cover after receiving enemy fire in Tal Afar, Iraq. This photo appeared on [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)

might come after. Just us: non-combat support people, who perform a particularly vital role and who would make excellent alternate targets to the enemy if he knew...

For a moment, there was the tempta-

tion to remain in the room, to avoid the action, to hope nothing would happen if I stayed in the room. That feeling always comes in war. It is panic, fear, and a survival instinct that most of us have. Yet, panic kills you more than cold, cal-

culating actions and decisions. Hiding in a corner gives up the initiative, makes you one of the rabbit people, hoping the fox will eat the others and be satiated before he gets to you. I knew I could not stay where I was, that I had to prepare to meet the enemy, on my terms. I've fought before, and knew I could do it again, and be successful.

I ran out of my room, outside the duplex to the corner of the house where a steel ladder led up to the roof. I wanted on top, where I could see what was going on. The rooftops of the duplexes are like a fort: the roofs are flat, surrounded by a thick 3-1/2 foot parapet on all sides, making for perfect cover. Any enemy coming toward us would have to see us, then shoot up to hit us, which would mean most of his rounds would go over us -- and they are notoriously bad shots with their inaccurate (but reliable) AKs, especially when firing on full automatic, which they usually do. The only way to reach us was via that ladder, which was in a partially enclosed space, with a wrought iron gate, which appeared to be locked with a padlock, but which in fact was not locked. Such would cause confusion to anyone not knowing their way around.

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photos: Scott Shepard in the Moroccan desert

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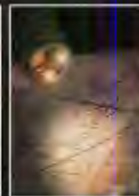
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**Staff Sgt. Jerry Potts**, from Company B, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, directs his men to halt during a patrol in Tal Afar, Iraq. This photo appeared on [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil).

guys I was watching the movie with were on that roof – all five of us. I could feel my knees trembling, more from the adrenaline and the now-eagerness to engage the foe. But I, and the others, had to wait, to see what was developing before rushing anywhere or shooting at shadows. We watched in awe, as the thousands of rounds filled the air. We talked excitedly, but quietly amongst ourselves, trying to figure out where the attack was coming from.

### **A Whirling Diversion**

The gunfire was from everywhere that we could see towards the East, towards downtown Baghdad. There was little gunfire from the South, where the perimeter wall was 250 yards away. We began to see a pattern: it was all from the East. Therefore, I warned my cohorts, “Watch out for something sneaking through the South Wall. This going on in front must be a diversion.”

We watched, more closely and less excitedly. I told my friends that any real

attack would include car bombs against the wall, to break it open like a castle breach, so that enemy forces could pour through in mass. Or that rocket-propelled grenades – RPGs – would be fired against the guard towers. But nothing like that was happening. We could see the rounds going up in the air towards our sentinel balloon some two thousand feet in the air, with its sensors and cameras aimed downward, but the shots were to no effect. Long lines of tracers crisscrossed back and forth, from all points along the East wall, stretching for a mile back and forth. This was the most coordinated attack I could possibly imagine from the insurgents. There must have been hundreds of them out there – maybe more, but I didn’t want to imagine that much yet.

I was impressed at how much ammunition the enemy was expending against us... well, at first it seemed to be against us.

Having seen attacks before, I began taking note of a curious phenomena: it

seemed as if all the rounds were arcing upward. Not toward the guard towers or us, but up. Some came toward us, but again, they seemed as if they were fired from some distance away and not really at us. And our guard towers, which are quick to return fire, did not seem to be returning much of it. There was some return fire, but not what would be expected from soldiers seeing scores or hundreds of attackers moving toward them.

And again, no explosions. I was convinced that this was a diversion; that the real attack must be coming from somewhere we did not expect. But I was worrying more and more about the rounds all going up. There should have been crisscrossing in front of and into the guard towers – but there was none.

We all became uneasy with the way it seemed to be developing: What we fear most is what we don’t understand.

A direct attack, I understand. But this was not like a direct attack. We were all somewhat casual – some a false

*Continued on page 58*

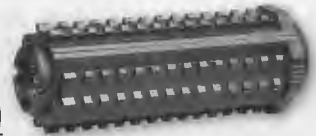
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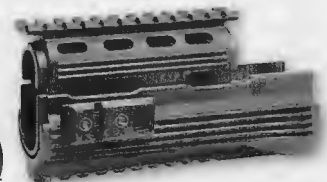
Aviation grade aluminum makes the X6 one of the strongest Picatinny rail system in the world for the AR15/M16. Featuring four full-length Picatinny rails on the handguard and an additional mini rail on each side of the front sight. Two long and six short rail covers provide protection to the rail when not in use and insure a comfortable non-slip grip for the operator. Available in both rifle and carbine lengths. A seventh rail mounts between the two mini rails on the front sight and is available as an accessory. No gunsmithing or fitting is required.

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# Three For The Money

## Snipers' Head Shots Had To Kill Terrorists Simultaneously To Prevent Explosion

By Sean Rayment

Early on a warm summer morning, a few hours before traffic began to fill the streets, a 16-man SAS patrol took up ambush positions around a Baghdad house, writes Sean Rayment.

The soldiers had been told that the house was being used as a base by insurgents - and up to three suicide bombers were expected to leave it later that morning. Dressed in explosive vests, they were fully equipped to hit a number of locations around the city. The bombers' targets were thought to be cafes and restaurants frequented by members of the Iraqi security forces.

The intelligence was regarded as "high grade" and came from an Iraqi agent who had been nurtured by members of the British Secret Intelligence Service, also known as MI6, for several months.

Expectation among the 16 soldiers, attached to Task Force Black (TFB), the secret American and British special forces unit based in the Iraqi capital, was high. Each member of the four four-man groups was a veteran of many missions where the intelligence promised much - only to deliver little. The plan for Operation Marlborough was simple: allow the three suspected bombers to leave the house and get into the street, then kill them with head shots from the four sniper teams. Each team was equipped with L115A .338 sniper rifles, capable of killing at up to 1,000 yards. The soldiers, liaising earlier with their commanders, had considered the option of entering the house and killing the terrorists - but that plan was regarded as too dangerous. The confines of the house would intensify the impact of any blast, killing everyone inside.

The SAS soldiers were told that it was vital that the three bombers would have to be killed simultaneously.

If one of them was allowed to detonate a device, scores of people could be killed or injured.

In support of the covert sniper teams was a Quick Reaction Force (QRF), which would provide a dozen extra soldiers within a few minutes in an emergency. The QRF was based in a secure location nearby and a team of ammunition technical officers were on hand to defuse the bombs.

A section of Iraqi police was also attached to the operation - although they were not briefed on the detail of the attack - to deal with any crowd trouble.

Meanwhile, 2,000 feet above the city of five million inhabitants, a CIA-controlled Predator unmanned air vehicle was providing a real-time video feed back to the TFB headquarters deep inside the secure green zone.

Shortly after 8am, Arabic translators, monitoring listening devices hidden inside the house, warned the operations centre inside the militarily controlled green zone that the three terrorists were on the move. The message "stand by, stand by" was dispatched to the four teams.

As the terrorists entered the street, a volley of shots rang out and the three insurgents slumped to the ground.

Each terrorist had been killed by a single head shot - the

### Operation Marlborough

1

Four-man SAS teams take up covert positions around terrorist safe house and await orders from command HQ.



snipers having spent the past few days rehearsing the ambush in minute detail.

The SAS troopers had been warned that only a direct head shot would guarantee that bombs would not be detonated.

Only three of the four snipers fired, the fourth was to act as a back-up in case one of the weapons jammed or a sniper lost sight of his target.

The message that the terrorists had been killed was sent back to the SAS headquarters and the troops moved forward

to check the bodies for life. As they gingerly approached it became brutally apparent that the .338 calibre round - the biggest rifle bullet used by the British Army - had done its job.

Operation Marlborough was hailed as a complete success and one of the rare occasions on which the coalition has been able to deliver a decisive blow against suicide bombers. ✕

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2

Terrorists leave safe house. Drone 2,000ft above ambush point relays live video to HQ.

3

Snipers ordered to fire. Three terrorists killed simultaneously. Suicide vests defused and team withdraws to safe Green Zone.

Video

Drone 2,000ft above city

Terrorists

Security cover

Spotter

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## The Glock 17

The 9x19mm NATO caliber Glock 17 pistol needs no introduction, but since this is the pistol issued to Iraqi forces, it was issued to and carried by Marines enrolled in the Foreign Weapons class throughout the week. The holsters supplied were of Kydex from Blade-Tech, of Oregon. In addition to the Glock the Marines also trained with the 9x18mm Makarov pistol.

## The Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) launcher.

For technical information and familiarization, Gunsite provided an RPG with dummy rockets in order to offer proper instruction in how this common weapon is deployed. It is hoped that inert rounds can be legally provided for future classes. ☒

Next month, the Leathernecks train with all the above weapons and Johnston provides a critique from the troops, and an analysis of how likely it is that more troops may be to benefit from this excellent training.

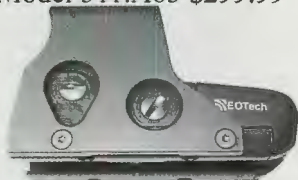
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**Mark Cheng, L.Ac.**

Columnist & Contributing Editor, Black Belt Magazine  
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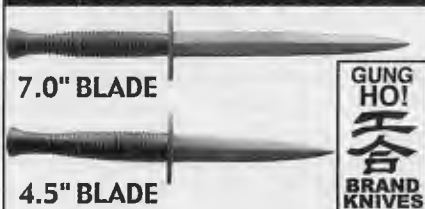
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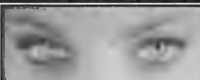
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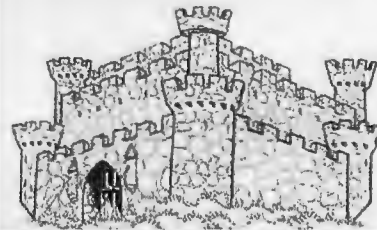
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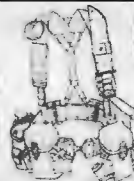
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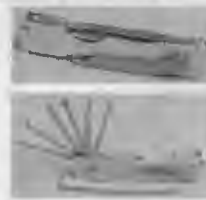
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MAELSTROM • Continued from page 50

bravado, but more and more we were just getting curious. I kept telling my buddies to watch behind and to look for infiltrators, as the situation was not "normal" from my perspective.

This went on for half an hour – the firing was intense, unlike nothing I'd seen since flying over Hanoi at night with thousands of rounds fired at me.

We saw behind us, on the street below, a man approaching with U.S. body armor like ours and wearing the standard U.S. Kevlar helmet. He was somewhat casual in his approach – I could see his demeanor in his posture, even in the twilight of the tracers and flares.

"What's happening?" someone shouted.

The soldier on the street below yelled back: "Iraq's national soccer team just won the regional championship match against Syria!"

They take World Cup soccer seriously here.

I guess this would have been the Great Soccer War – if only it had been fought against someone. The adrenaline wore off and I had the best night's sleep since I've been here... how deflated I was to get all dressed up for war, but nobody came. ☒

Young Winston Churchill noted that few things are as exhilarating as having been shot at without effect. Entire firefights that were not, leave one with a similar feeling.

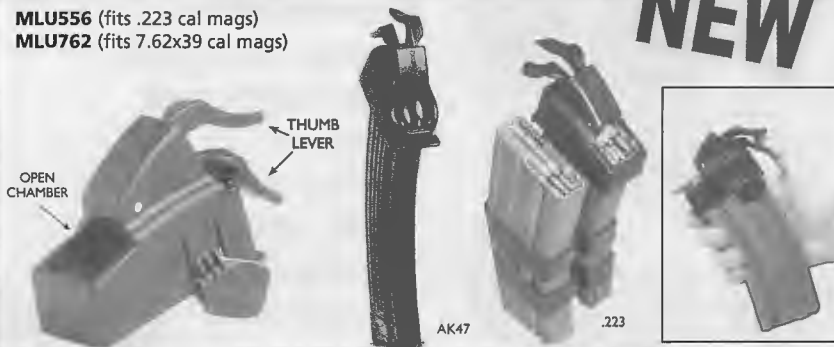


Sgt. Jared Seiler, from 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, pursues a terrorist who detonated an improvised explosive device on a Humvee at Tarmiya, Iraq. This photo appeared on [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)

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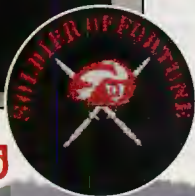
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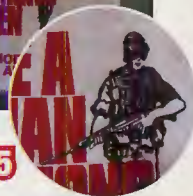
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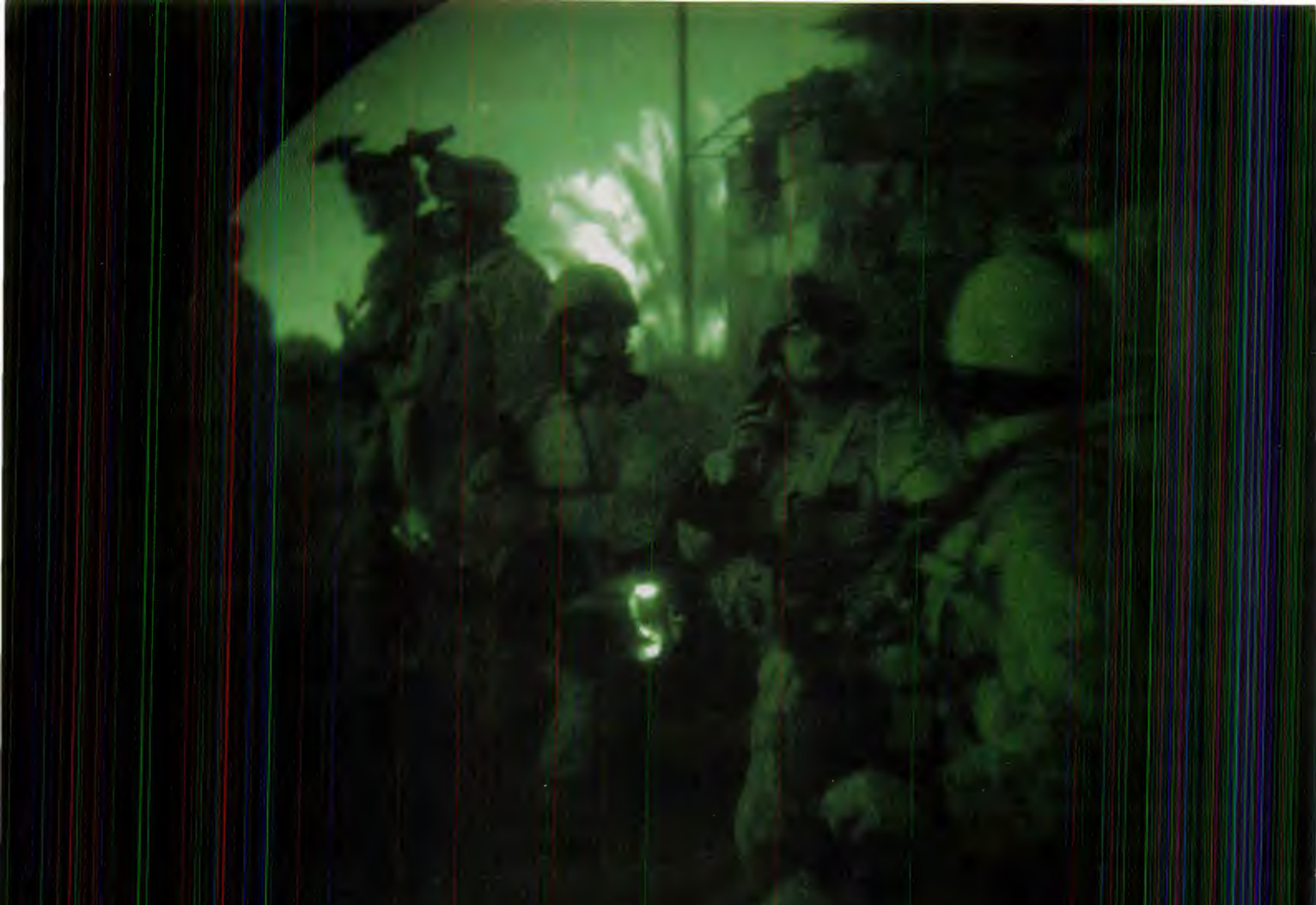
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# Thanksgiving in Baghdad

By Sergeant Erick Gelhaus, 1st Bn, 184th Infantry (Air Assault)  
California Army National Guard

**A**s some of you know, my Company had its clock cleaned by the Islamist Vermin Scum in September and October. The Battalion also took quite a few hits in October as well. The numbers from this were not pretty.

Thanksgiving morn came too early for us, especially since my section has not been doing much in terms of patrols until later in the day. We had breakfast and headed to five plus hours of briefings designed to prepare us for re-deployment. Allegedly, there IS light at the end of the tunnel.

Following the briefings, we headed to the mess hall, "Dining Facility" to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. It wasn't bad at all. For reasons about to be obvious, I avoided the turkey and had prime rib instead. There was even pumpkin pie. Will wonders never cease?

Rather than being able to crash on the couch and watch football, we headed out to a rehearsal for the evening's events.

First, we figured out the order in which we were going to load the helicopters we were using for the night's mission. Then we practiced and practiced it some more.

Second, we ran through the sequence in which various ele-

ments – teams or squads – would hit their blocking positions to seal off the objective before the assault element would enter and clear the house.

After several more run throughs, the boss called it good and we headed off to nap, finalize our equipment or get more to eat.

The time for us to move to the helipad came soon enough. Once there, we sorted ourselves back into some semblance of order. Infantrymen, Air Force Joint Tactical Air Controllers, Navy bomb dogs and the handlers and Iraqi translators.

Air Force fast movers checked in as being several miles up above the target, Apache gunships were moving into the area and our Chinooks (yes, they have another name but I'll leave it out of this) were one minute out from the pick-up zone we were on.

The Chinooks landed and we loaded up (checking to insure that they were in fact leaking) and off we went. It is always interesting to fly over Baghdad and its surrounding environs at night – something we often do now. If the media were to be believed, we wouldn't see a single light yet we see as many as we would flying over any really large suburb in

the US. I guess folks at home think we do not see cars on the road and yet it looked like the end of any other commute period on the roads.

The only difference, and its one keeping with the fact that there is a war against the Islamist Vermin Scum here, was the reports from the door and tail gunners about small arms fire on and from the ground.

Pretty soon, the "ONE MINUTE" call was made, passed from Soldier to Soldier to Air Controller by yelling in the ear of guy next to you.

The birds slowed, their noses rose a bit as the tail gunner left his seat. Once the wheels touched down, the mad stampede out the back started. As I stepped off the tail gate and started towards my initial blocking position, I chambered a round – we can't fly locked and loaded. I linked up with my partner in "crime", Frank Dillard (another deputy sheriff from Tulare Co. SD) and followed the Boss – who we are supposed to keep alive and intact. The JTACs called, saying that the fast movers – Air



Force jets – had seen someone run out of the target residence westbound. The JTACs and part of my old platoon took off westbound.

The chase did not last long. Our target had been shot in the leg a few months before. The JTACs were chasing a guy with a limp ... Hmmm. The Navy K9 handlers threatened to unleash the dog. The chase ended .

Our guys caught the target, trying to hide in an irrigation ditch. He'd left his revolver in the house when he fled. It was found during the search.

Bottom line, after much work on the part of a lot of people, one very serious Bad Guy was wearing a blindfold and new bracelets, headed for an experience that was no where near as unpleasant as it should be. Like many of those who encourage others to die while trying to kill us, he ran

away instead of fighting. When our bird closed the backdoor, the IVS had tried running out the side to get away. This is

*Continued on page 72*

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# Burma Christian Soldiers Labor On



*Karen troops at parade rest at Karen National Liberation Army 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade Headquarters somewhere inside Burma. Karens have the dubious distinction of having had to fight for freedom against Burmese dictatorship for 50 years, making their struggle the longest insurgency in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

## The Oppressed Karen Struggle and Survive on Faith

Text & Photos by Derek Melton

**M**y first knowledge of the Karen (the largest of the seven ethnic groups native to Burma) came in the mid-to-late 1980's, when I was a young cop fascinated with special weapons and tactics as well as the whole of the arena of special warfare. Finding their way into my hands were several copies of the *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, which soon became my magazine of choice, feeding my passion for special weaponry, tactics, and the men who lived the warrior's style of life. In the magazine, articles about the Karen Freedom Fighters and their plight at the hands of the Burmese Junta aroused curiosity and an interest in the cause of an oppressed people, that weeks before I didn't even know existed.

Little did I know that nearly 20 years later I would be crossing the Moei River into the jungles of Burma, meeting

General Htin Maung and his soldiers, the 7<sup>th</sup> brigade of the Karen National Liberation Army face to face.

In the early 1990's after 10 years of working the streets as a patrol officer, also heading up our department's special operations team, I began to bridge together my expertise in law-enforcement with another realm of warfare: the war over men's souls. As strange as it may sound, the principles between the two were similar and this cop embarked upon a journey that would ultimately lead me to the remote jungles of Burma and face to face with some of the toughest guerrilla warfare insurgents – and staunchest men of faith – in the world.

In 2000-2001, after pioneering two churches in our community approximately 30 minutes northeast of Tulsa, Okla-



*(top) This Karen troop is armed with M-16 with 30 round magazine. Karens obtain their weapons from the black market or dead enemies. (right) Karen shortage of manpower often forces them to utilize 12 to 14 year olds in their ever-ongoing fight for freedom.*

homa I became acquainted with Dr. Timothy Laklem, the founder and director of Asian Tribal Ministries based out of Chiang Mai, Thailand. Dr. Laklem, a native Karen, made several trips to our home over the next five years speaking in our churches about the Karen people and the atrocities befalling them. A relationship was formed and subsequently we began to financially and prayerfully support these oppressed but determined people of eastern Burma.

In the spring of 2005 I received a telephone call from Dr. Laklem, who was inside Burma in the jungle, inviting me to join him in Burma to reach out to the soldiers of the KNLA to encourage them and to preach the Gospel to them. I was certainly happy about the invitation but was unable to take leave from the department at the time and I told Dr. Laklem that I would have to take a "rain-check" and reschedule for later



five-hour road-trip from the base landed us in Mae Sot where we would be launching our missions for the next several days. After arriving in Mae Sot and checking into our hotel, we unloaded our gear and headed out to meet with a Major of the KNLA, at his home. After a short journey we turned off the main highway onto a dirt road leading us through a thatch-hut Karen village. We came to an iron gate that opened up as we arrived and our drivers pulled through the gate and into a covered parking area. We were escorted to the house where we met with the KNLA Major and his family.

We were seated and served beverages by the Major's servants. Soon a KNLA Colonel arrived and we all shook hands and appropriate greetings were exchanged. As we sat around the teakwood table, we listened to these officers tell of the atrocities that have been committed against their people since the end of WWII, when the British withdrew their troops from Burma. This left the Karen people to deal with the cruel Burmese dictators who had a bad taste in their mouths towards the Karen because of their alliance with the Brits, as well as the beating they took during the war.

### **SitRep of Beleaguered Innocents:**

Story after story of these atrocities and the Karen's determination to be free from oppression and tyranny left me a little moist around the eyes. These KNLA leaders are stalwart Christians and lead their men in prayer before they lead them into battle. I sat almost spell-bound as these serious-minded

in the year. Dr. Laklem told me that November of 2005 would be a good time of year to visit Southeast Asia, being past the rainy season and into the beginning of winter.

### **Pilgrimage to the Jungle**

At his advice we began to plan. I hand picked a team from our church that could adapt to war-zone conditions and we began to plan out the details and raise the funds to get us across the ocean and back home again. On Halloween afternoon five men and one tough lady boarded the aircraft en-route to Chiang Mai, Thailand. After 36 hours we arrived in Thailand, meeting up with Dr. Laklem and his team. We were whisked away from the airport and into the psychotic traffic of Chiang Mai – a street cop's nightmare.

After arriving at the ATM (Asian Tribal Ministries) base we took a day or so to re-cooperate from the journey and soon the real journey began. A



*(left) Karens are armed with wide variety of well-worn small arms. If it shoots, they use it. (right) Headquarters of the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade, constructed of teak, has sign that says in English, "The Fight May Be Long But Triumph Is Sure And Rest Comes At Last To Those Who Endure." English is the second language of the Karens.*

warriors gave details of battles and victories that seemed too amazing and miraculous to believe – yet they were unquestionably true. One story told by the Colonel was incredible: The KNLA 7<sup>th</sup> brigade had been fighting the Junta for three days and nights inside the jungles of Burma. The fighting had been fierce and the KNLA were running out of ammunition. The mortars had all been deployed, but all that was left was small-arms and the supply lines had been cut off.

### **Escape On the Wings of Eagles**

The Karen had high ground, but they were surrounded by 4,000 SPDC troops. The Colonel and the Major rallied the men and called them to prayer – asking for God's help. The situation had so deteriorated that the whole brigade was in

danger of being destroyed. This battle was in the middle of the dry season and the chance of rain is slim to none. Yet, as the men prayed a cloud formed in the sky. The men seeing this prayed harder and harder and the cloud continued to grow. Soon, the sounds of thunder echoed through the mountainous terrain and soon to follow were monsoon-type rains. These 200 men of the 7<sup>th</sup> brigade formed two columns and marched down the mountain and right through 4,000 SPDC troops, who looked confused appeared unable to respond to the Karen guerilla's movement. The rain was coming in sheets and the visibility was poor, but the Karen exfiltrated within only a few feet of the well-armed Burmese army.

The Karen escaped into the jungle, leaving a confused and bewildered adversary behind, as the rain covered their



*This amputee examines a Bushnell Holographic Sight that was presented to the Karens by the author. Note WW II .30 cal. Carbine.*

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*Continuing The Legacy*



(above) KNLA sniper with M-16 and scope of unknown vintage. (top right) M-79's are favorites of Karens – when they can get them. Most are purchased on the black market. (bottom right) Heavy weapons, such as this heavy machine gun and this recoilless rifle are probably of Chinese manufacture.

tracks and escape route. During this fierce three-day battle not one Karen was injured in any way and more than 400 SPDC troops were carried out for burial.

These men are not only soldiers in

the Karen Army – they are also soldiers in the Army of God. After listening to many stories of victory mingled together with hardship and oppression, I presented the Colonel and the Major a gift from the USA: each were given a Bushnell Holographic Sight for their personal weapons. Needless to say, they were exuberant and thankful. Neither had seen this kind of technology. After being fed a wonderful meal by the Major's wife we departed for Mae Sot to rest up for the next day's mission.

### The FOB

The next morning we departed for the border with our team. We were met by the Colonel and the Major outside Mae Sot and traveled past a large Karen refugee camp and through a series of Thai checkpoints into the remote jungle area along the Moei River. After driving down a dirt path we came to the Moei. We were soon loading into a long-boat powered by a V-8 engine. The boat driver quickly transported us across the Moei like he knew what he was doing.

As we offloaded the boat we climbed a series of steps leading into the lush vegetation and out of the river bottom. We were soon met by men wielding



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Weapons are used till the literally fall apart. Note twine that secures the fore stock to the barrel of M-79.

AK-47's, M79 grenade launchers, and what appeared to be Vietnam vintage M16's. These were the soldiers of the 7<sup>th</sup> brigade. We soon were taken to the headquarter building which was made of teak wood with a leaf roof. There we met with the legendary General Htin Maung the commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade. We were seated around a table and we were served a cold Coke as Dr. Laklem introduced us to the General. We sat and listened to many stories of battles between the Karen people and the Burmese junta.

This old general was well seasoned, having served in the KNLA for 60 years. He is now 77. He is a well-groomed gentleman with a noticeably authoritative presence. He spoke to us in his native Karen tongue, interpreted by Dr. Laklem. We sat almost spellbound as this old warrior spoke of the heroic bravery of the Karen in battle. As he spoke I watched the soldiers beyond the headquarters. Many of these men were missing limbs and eyes. Young boys appearing to be no more than 12-14 years old were carrying AK-47's and M16's. Also, there were men wielding WW-II vintage M1 carbines alongside more modern M79's.

### Warriors only by Necessity

These warriors kept their weapons amazingly clean, many having their barrels covered to protect from moisture and dirt. They all seemed so at home in the jungle as they moved quietly



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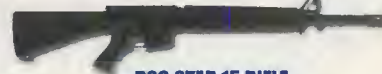
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(left) Yes, they pull guard duty even the jungles. Obviously disgruntled, Karen troop man's Headquarters check point, (right) Author poses with Karen at 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade Headquarters.

around the compound. It is such a peaceful place, being it is a war-zone with the enemy troops less than 1-2 clicks away. As we sat in the headquarters listening to General Htin Maung, it began to rain. The sounds of the jungle mingled with the light rain as the General spoke and I thought: "amazing how close paradise is to hell!" The clean smells, the peace of the jungle, mingled with the generosity of these warriors seemed to be paradise to me but the reality of the hell of war is only 1-2 kilometers across the valley.

Time and again as I spoke with these soldiers, it was emphatically impressed upon me that they do not want to fight – but to live in peace. The Burmese have for years attacked and exploited the innocence of these peaceable people and

the only reason they fight is to protect themselves and their simple way of life. We were shown photographs of rows of murdered Karen IDP (Internally Displaced People) children, tortured and killed by the SPDC. Village after village have been burned to the ground by the Burmese, sending the terrorized villagers deeper into the jungles to escape the brutality of these communists! After seeing these horrific photographs and hearing the stories of exploited innocence, I began to understand why these young warriors were willing to lay down their lives fighting against a wicked army that is superior numerically and militarily. What is it that keeps this army fighting and victorious from being annihilated by

*Continued on page 74*

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one time that Low Tech could not beat High Tech.

The residence and the immediate area were searched before we called for the birds to leave, or Exfil.

When the birds landed, the Boss raced on first in order to confirm one last task with the pilots. After we lifted off and cleared the immediate area, the boss grabbed up four Soldiers who were re-enlisting and they headed to back of the bird. Standing in the back of the bird, with the U.S. flag held between out stretched arms, the Boss administered the re-enlistment oath to four non-commissioned officers.

In the other bird, the Islamist Vermin Scum was probably not enjoying his helicopter ride as much as we were.

Yelling futilely, in an attempt to be heard over the noise of the bird, those gathered completed their part of the re-enlistment. Our fire support NCO was taking pictures of the whole thing with his night vision goggles on the front of his camera.

The flag used in the ceremony is already boxed up. It was carried in an assault pack during the Infil flight, during the raid and then used for the ceremony during the Exfil. It has a place, albeit small, in the history of this infantry company.

Some may say that it was not the brightest thing these Soldiers did – re-enlisting in the middle of this war. But they know the cost and realities better than anyone else. Not one of them had less than ten years of service already. Morale may not always be the highest but that is more a reflection of idiotic rules rocketed down from above, from the echelons above reality and the crap spewed by the media at home.

Were we thankful? Yes. Thankful that all of us came back in from the raid. Thankful that the IVS who is responsible for the deaths of U.S. soldiers was caught. Thankful that no matter how ugly things have gotten, nearly everyone here has always jocked up and gone back out. Thankful that our families and friends were able to spend the day not worrying about a terrorist attack in their neighborhoods. Thankful that we are slowly growing a generation of Warriors not affected by the legacy of the 90s that will be able to carry this fight to the Jihadists without worrying about being loved by the media. Thankful that our families and friends are waiting for us to come back. ☘

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an army far superior in weaponry and number? The answer is found in the heart and the resolve of these men and women, and I believe also with their favor with God.

**As Honored Guests**

As the day passed General Htin Maung assembled his men and asked if I would share the Gospel with them. The men stood barefoot at attention with weapons slung across their backs and attentively listened to every word I spoke – translated by the Colonel.

These men are living in such rogue conditions but their hearts are peaceable and beautiful. They were very appreciative of our being there – as Westerners are uncommon in their jungle. These men and their leaders begged that I come back and train them in small unit tactics and weapons in the future and yes – preach to them again.


We were fed a wonderful meal of noodles with vegetables and spices by General Htin Maung's wife there inside the jungle. We were treated with such respect and compassion. We visited

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the clinic inside the compound as well as the school. We spent time with the machine-gunner's post as they looked over maps and discussed strategies. These men were genuinely appreciative for our being there and asked for us to return to train them. The men of the 7<sup>th</sup> are eager to learn – even with their vast combat experience and understanding of the art of warfare.

Not once during our visits with the 7<sup>th</sup> brigade and the 201 battalion did we meet one arrogant soldier. Each soldier was courteous and clad with humility and thankfulness even though they are revered around the world, in the circle of warfare professionals, as the best guerrilla fighters anywhere.

**Pray for Peace,  
Keep Your Powder Dry**

The future of the Karen is hopeful. Dr. Laklem, Col. Saw Nerdah Mya, Maj. Thara Lermoo and General Htin Maung are currently leading the peace negotiations with the top leaders of the Burmese government and a gentleman's agreement cease-fire has been observed for the last 12 months. The last two negotiations led by KNU (Karen National Union) officials have collapsed, having lost the respect of Burmese leaders. Yet,

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Dr. Laklem reports that the Burmese are sincerely responding to the cry for peace along the Thai/Burmese border with the Karen and talks are currently underway in Bangkok and in Rangoon.

Dr. Laklem's philosophy is simple: the peace of a nation must be carved by men who hold high moral standards and who are selfless without any personal agendas or perverted motives. Dr. Laklem holds that there must be mutual respect between the two entities before true peace can be attained. In recent meetings the Burmese generals have asked Dr. Laklem to open the meetings with prayer. These changes in negotiation tactics are bearing the fruit of promise for peace and stability for a people that the world has forgotten – but nonetheless deserve independence and liberty. The cries of oppression from the Karen have reached Heaven and recognition and deliverance are soon to follow.

I traveled to the other side of the world hoping to help in some way and to bring hope to the people in any measure that I could. But I think I was changed by the Karen and their simplicity, hope, and faith, far more than I ever changed them. Their cause is noble and their worth immeasurable. How the Karen's plight has escaped the mainstream news remains a mystery – but these hidden people who have suffered immeasurable wrong are being vindicated by a Higher Authority. The men of the 7<sup>th</sup> brigade and the 201 battalion are noble warriors with a noble cause – and they hold my absolute respect. The Karen people showed us such respect and honor and they truly are beautiful people in every dimension of the word. As we left their villages, I began to feel that I was leaving home. Now that I'm back in the USA and back to work in Detective Division and working at the churches, my thoughts are never very far away from the brave men of the KNLA and the beautiful people of the Karen. ☩

Derek Melton is a detective sergeant with the Pryor, Oklahoma PD, and pastor of the Pryor Creek Community Church and Pryor ON Fire Teen Ministries.





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First Lieutenant Stephen G. Lewis, executive officer, Company B., 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, delivers a tribute to his late commander, Captain Jaimie C. Edge in the dining facility at Camp Ramadi. Photo: Corporal Tom Sloan, USMC

didn't touch his driver, Corporal Robert T. Harriott, as they drove down a street in their Humvee.

Before 1/5 crossed into Iraq, Harriott, who drove TOW-1 in Counter Mech, the platoon this reporter was assigned to, yelled, "We'll cover your back. We won't let anything happen to you." And he did just that all the way to Baghdad, eating the dust my Humvee churned up ahead of him.

### Open Season on Officers

Officers have always been a favorite target of enemy snipers. In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, American rifleman Timothy Murphy killed British General Simon

Fraser at 500 yards with his "Kentucky Rifle" at the Battle of Saratoga, one of the turning points of the War of Independence.

During the War Between the States, Union and Confederate sharpshooters were killing every officer they could see. Union Captain John T. Metcalf used a .50 caliber muzzle-loading rifle with a 24x scope to drop a Confederate officer at 1,666 meters. The bullet took a full five seconds to reach the target. On the Confederate side, a sergeant in the 4<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry used a British Whitworth target rifle equipped with a telescopic sight to kill Union General John Sedgwick at 800 yards. Urged by



Captain John W. Maloney, commander of Company C., 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, watches Medical supplies get offloaded from a sea container at the Maternity and Children's Hospital in Ramadi. The half million dollars worth of supplies ranged from heart monitors and antibiotics to new bed sheets and bandages.

aides to take cover, Sedgwick uttered those infamous words, "They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist..." Sedgwick never finished his sentence.

Each of the three sniper teams in 1/5 was attached to an individual rifle company. Sgt. Anderson's team was attached to Bravo Company. Anderson was with Captain Jamie G. Edge, the commanding officer of B Company, the day he was killed by a sniper in Ramadi.

"I was standing right next to my Bravo Company CO when he got shot in the head," said Anderson.

"We were on a leader's recon when we found a building locked from the inside. And this guy told me there was an American radio inside that building," said Anderson, who wondered at the time how the Iraqi would know that. So we went back and told Capt. Edge, who got the whole company together and surrounded the building."

Anderson climbed on top of the roof of the building and along with other members of his sniper team, cleared the building from top to bottom. While Edge was topside trying to establish communications with battalion, he got

hit.

"He was out before he hit the roof," said Anderson who heard the sonic crack of the sniper round. "As I take cover behind a cinderblock wall that rings the rooftop, another round hits right where my face would have been had I not moved a few inches to the left. If I hadn't moved, it would have hit me right in the head," Anderson who gives the Captain's killer credit for a good shot.

A few days later, Sgt. Anderson returned to the rooftop and found a bullet hole in the cinderblock wall where he took cover. Through the hole, Anderson could see the window in a nearby building where the sniper was hiding, but they never found him. Anderson lased the distance with a range finder: 557 yards,

"which is weird since the Dragunov scope is only 2.5 power and it's really only good to about 300 yards, so I don't know if [he] got lucky or what," said Anderson, "or if he had a better rifle." But Anderson was told the slug recovered from Capt. Edge was 7.62 x 51mm, the round used in a Dragunov sniper rifle.

"But I don't know if I believe that or not," confessed Anderson. But one thing is certain. Capt. Edge was not killed with a .50 caliber sniper rifle.

Before 1/5's Scout Sniper Platoon left Camp Pendleton, the commander, Staff Sergeant Brian Dow was told to be on the lookout for single-shot Steyr-Mannlicher .50 caliber sniper rifles. Iran purchased more than 800 of them in January 2005 for "use on its borders," but in February, Iran and Syria signed a mutual aid agreement, and since many of the snipers killed in Fal-lujah were carrying Syrian passports, intelligence suspected Iran might arm Syrian snipers with big-bore rifles. Anderson put that rumor to rest. "It didn't happen," said the young Sergeant.

In addition to killing Bravo Company's



Corporal Donald W. Ball, a team leader with 3rd Squad, Weapons Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, shows off his warfighter's bracelet during a memorial ceremony for his late friend, Corporal Jeff B. Starr. Photo: Corporal Tom Sloan USMC



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commanding officer, enemy snipers in Ramadi also took shots at the team leader of Seminole Bravo. Sergeant Gerald Hooee took a sniper round through the pack on his back, but wasn't hit. "It was the same day that Hooee tried to detonate an IED with a .50 cal [sniper rifle]," said Anderson, "but we wound up calling EOD [Explosive Ordnance Disposal] and had them blow the IED in place.

That was the only time Seminole Bravo broke out its SASR [Special Application Sniper Rifle] during the deployment to Ramadi. Most of the shots 1/5 snipers took were well within the range [1,000 yards or less] of their M40A3s. There was no need to reach out more than a mile and touch someone with the .50 cal.

## USMC Sniper Team Wiped Out

Before 1/5's Scout Sniper Platoon left Camp Pendleton for Ramadi, it reorganized into four, six-man teams. When it got to Iraq, it reorganized again. This time SSP formed three eight-man teams. "We needed more firepower and protection when we set up observation posts in private homes and buildings," said Sergeant Nolan J. Kowolski. The last thing SSP wanted was to have one of its sniper teams overrun, captured or killed.

"We went into Ramadi loaded for bear," said Sgt. Anderson. "We carried more firepower than a Marine platoon. In addition to automatic weapons and all the ammo we could carry, we also took along Claymore mines. After setting up in a house, we'd mine every approach to that house," added Anderson. While shooters were scoping the neighborhood, other members of the sniper team were scanning alleyways leading to their hide site. Sniper teams like Anderson's were attacked by insurgents

who never got through the wall of steel. Vigilance paid off.

A six-man sniper team from 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, a unit famous for its heroism on Iwo Jima during World War Two, was wiped out in early August. Two days after the ambush in Haditha, a hotbed of insurgent activity in the Euphrates River valley, the website of the Ansar al-Sunnah Army posted photos from the slaughter. One picture showed a bloody body wearing Marine camouflage fatigues. Another photo showed two hooded gunmen standing in front of several rifles, apparently taken from dead Marines. In a statement that accompanied the photos, Ansar al-Sunnah said the insurgents lured the Marines into an ambush.

"The intention was to capture them alive, but they opened fire on the muja-hidein," said the statement.

The United States Marine Corps has not said much publicly about the incident. There was no mention of the incident in "News From The Front" on the official Marine Corps website, but the sniper community knows what happened in Haditha.

Sgt. Anderson believes the reservists from Ohio may not have been as vigilant as they should have been.

"I don't know what they were doing," said Anderson, "but a UAV [Unmanned Aerial Vehicle] caught them standing on a hill in Haditha. The two three-man teams had linked up at midday and were just chilling out when two or three insurgents began walking toward them from about 300 yards. Without warning, the insurgents opened fire, killing most of the Marines in the first volley," said Anderson.

"The insurgents got really, really close before they opened fire," Anderson added, "I don't know if the team members were sleeping or suntanning themselves, but the enemy wound up with all of their gear. They got two 40s [M40A3 sniper rifles], two SAWs [Squad Automatic Weapons] and two M16A4s with combat optics. In addition, the enemy got the team's radios and ammunition," said Anderson.

But the insurgents didn't get their hands on a SASR. The reserve sniper team wasn't issued one of the .50 Barrett rifles. Only two sniper teams in 1/5 were issued SASRs — Seminole Bravo and Sierra Charlie.



"Sierra Bravo" team leader, Sergeant Gerald Hooee, left, and Sergeant Clayton T. Anderson, right, taking a breather at Camp Ramadi before a mission. Photo: courtesy of Sgt. Clayton T. Anderson.

By its very name, a Special Application Sniper Rifle is only used under certain conditions. It is not a Marine's primary weapon on a battlefield, but Corporal Matt Michael in Sierra Charlie carried his SASR everywhere he went in Ramadi. It was like his American Express card. The young Marine who was attached to Charlie Company during two previous combat tours in Iraq wouldn't leave Camp Snake Pit without the "big gun." The semi-automatic Barrett was apparently his security blanket.

### Veterans Grieve the Loss of a Gunfighter

More than 1,100 Marines crossed the "Line of Departure" in Kuwait in the spring of 2003 when the "Fighting Fifth" invaded Iraq. Lance Corporal Jeff B. Starr was with Bravo Company. Starr was with this reporter at the Saddam Hussein Canal and later in Baghdad. He was back in Iraq with Bravo Co. when 1/5 entered Fallujah in the spring of 2004, and survived a merciless attack on his AAV [Amphibious Assault Vehicle] when it was hit by at least 9 rocket-propelled grenades and set ablaze, killing its gunner and almost blowing the leg off his platoon commander. Starr and other Marines the "Dirty Deuces," 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, bailed out of the burning amtrac deep in enemy territory, and fought for several hours until a Quick Reaction Force rescued them.

Corporal Starr returned to Ramadi as a team leader with 1st Squad, Weapons Platoon, Company B. He was killed by a sniper on Memorial Day while conducting operations against enemy forces. According to his battalion commander, Starr had celebrated his 22nd birthday five days earlier. He was scheduled to return to Camp Pendleton a month later and transition to civilian life.

"Ironically, he and this battalion share the same birthday," said LtCol Smith at Starr's memorial service. First Battalion, 5th Regiment was formed on May 25, 1917. Starr was born on the same date in 1983.

His best friend was Corporal Donald W. Ball, a team leader with 3rd Squad, Weapons Platoon, Bravo Co. The two infantrymen became acquainted in 2002 when they were new to the Corps. They fought alongside each other and forged a friendship that even death cannot destroy.

Ball wears a bracelet on his right wrist to honor his fallen comrade-in-arms. It's a thin, braided cloth band.

"All the Marines that have been here three times have a warfighter bracelet like this," said Ball as he held up his fist in front of his face to show off his badge of honor.

### An Officer and a Gentleman

Sgt. Clayton T. Anderson has made his last deployment to Iraq with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Anderson has been accepted into MECERP, the Marine Enlistment Commissioning Education Program, and this coming fall the 24 year old Leatherneck from Cypress, Texas will enter Texas A&M University to complete his undergraduate degree.

Upon graduation, Anderson will be commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He is preparing to tread the same path that many officers in 1st Battalion, 5th Marines have trod as prior enlisted, including Major Pete Farnum, the commanding officer of Weapons Company, the unit this reporter was embedded with during the invasion of Iraq.

The way the war is going, Anderson will probably wind up there again, after graduation in a couple of years. ✕

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# E-Day in Iraq

BY LT. COL. OLIVER NORTH, USMC (RET.)

RAMADI, IRAQ – The defeatists back home didn't think it could be done. But today, the Iraqi people, only recently liberated from a repressive dictatorship, held their third election in the space of a year. After first choosing a transitional government in January, they returned to the polls in October to approve a constitution. In both cases, they turned out in great numbers under the threat of violence. Today, millions of those same Iraqi citizens trekked to one of thousands of polling places around the country to vote for candidates who will form a 275-member National Assembly that will take office on Dec. 31.

On election day, I was with the Marines of 3/7 atop an outpost in the heart of one of the most vicious neighborhoods in this very violent city of Ramadi. It was once a stronghold of the Sunni terrorist movement, but thanks to these Marines, it no longer is.

The election began at 7:00 a.m. with a bang, and the Marines were ready. They responded to the improvised explosive device (IED) and afterwards, for a time, the streets were nearly empty.

But imams, sheiks and local leaders urged people to get out and vote, and because they did, the turnout was dramatic. One local imam told his followers, "God will bless you with a great life if you go out and vote." That and similar messages were broadcast from mosques all around town.

At the end of this historic day, there was not a sound of gunfire, but instead, as the polls closed, there was a call to prayer. It was even an occasion for celebration as the neighborhood children were out in the streets, after dark, playing soccer with equipment that was given to them by Americans in uniform.

Capt. Brian Grant told me the turnout was "an overwhelming success." Indeed it was – there were lines that wrapped around the block and extended for hundreds of people. 10 polling places ran out of ballots and had to send out for more. The safe environment provided by the Marines, with the help of Iraqi security forces and local religious leaders, gave citizens the added confidence to go to the polls without worrying about their personal safety.

It is nothing short of remarkable. Because here in Ramadi, which is the capital of Iraq's largest province and the heart of the Sunni Triangle, there has been tremendous opposition from the jihadists who did everything they could to prevent this election from taking place. In fact, in this area during the last election, less than five percent of the people turned out to vote.

The violence is caused mostly by the IED – a terrible thing which remains the terrorists' weapon of choice. The Marines were confronted with several earlier in the week, but the

good news is that the security situation in Ramadi is a great deal better today than it was just a few months ago when I was last here.



Sergeant Dorsel B. Boyer, right, with Ollie North, during North's latest trip to Iraq. Boyer, assigned to 2/2 Brigade Combat Team, hails from Coshocton, Ohio.

It is better, in part, because there are now a lot more Iraqis providing security in this area, which was not the case during my last visit to this region. In fact, only a few months ago, there were no Iraqi areas of responsibility in this city. Today, there are Iraqi Army troops operating right next to soldiers and Marines. Now, they have their own areas of operation with some logistic support from the Americans.

As Lt. Chad Cliver told me, the Marines of 3/7 "work very closely with Iraqi Army troops as well as Iraqi police." Over the past several months, they have spent time training the Iraqis who are making a lot of progress – so much so that Cliver says, "before we leave here we will have turned over most of Ramadi to the Iraqis themselves."

But it is that kind of steady, persistent progress that American troops are making over here that accounted for the successful election today. Throughout the week leading

up to E-Day, numerous Marines with whom I spoke expressed confidence that the day would be a success.

I asked Lt. Col. Roger Turner, the commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines when I first arrived here, if he thought the terrorists could be held in check and that the elections would actually take place. Turner was confident, saying, "I think it will take place [because] the people of Ramadi very genuinely want to participate in elections." He explained that though the terrorists are desperate to disrupt the day, their violent tactics are backfiring on them and they are being "overtaken by events and the momentum that the democratic process starts to gain here."

When election day was over, I asked Lance Corporal Jeffrey Heath if the day was a success for the Marines. His reply: "Absolutely. This is why we're here – to help the Iraqi people gain the kind of freedoms that we take for granted back in the States."

A profound and inspiring explanation from a brave and dedicated Marine. If only the kind of optimism that is so abundant here in Iraq were more prevalent in Washington. ✕

Oliver North is host of "War Stories" on the Fox News Channel. The opinions expressed above are his own and do not represent the views of Fox News and/or Soldier Of Fortune.

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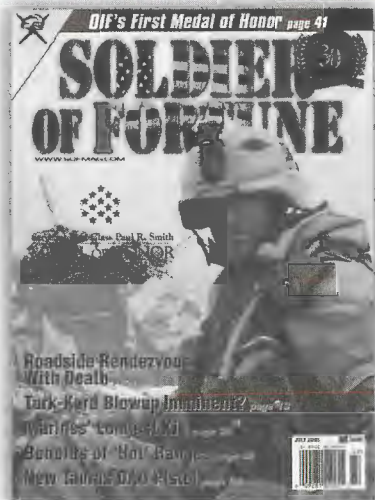
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